



Take Flight! is an annotated bibliography showcasing a selection of more than 100 bird-themed picture books from Asia and around the world, both fiction and non-fiction, which can be used as a teaching resource and help parents and book lovers find interesting books to read.



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Take Flight!

An Annotated Bibliography
of Bird-themed Picture Books

Selected and compiled by
Evelyn Sue Wong and
Rhoda Myra Garces-Bacsal, PhD



AFCC Publication

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Foreword

We invite you to let your imagination soar with *Take Flight!*, this year's collection of children's picture books on the theme of birds which we are launching at the 2016 Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC).

This is our fourth annotated bibliography of beautifully illustrated children's stories on a common theme, featuring Asian content. *Splash! Asia*, *All About Rice!*, *Forest of Stories*, and *Take Flight!* are a celebration of our natural environment that provides nourishment and joy everywhere in the world. They are also a celebration of the authors, illustrators, publishers and everyone involved in the creation of children's content, not only in printed books but in all media forms. Our appreciation and thanks to all who have shared with us titles and books for this collection.

Well-illustrated children's picture books not only inspire the development of visual literacy, but also inspire the translation of wonderful stories into other languages to share with the world's children. We are happy to include stories that are in their native language, in two languages, and many that have been translated into English and other languages.

Take Flight!, like our other annotated bibliographies, will be available online as a resource for parents, educators, researchers, librarians, authors, illustrators, publishers and everyone who loves books. We will be creating a dedicated website for these themed collections to make them more easily accessible, and look forward to inviting you to share your favourite stories and new titles to be included.

Enjoy reading stories from this collection, and let your imagination *Take Flight!*

Claire Chiang

Chairperson, Board of Advisors
Asian Festival of Children's Content



I ntroduction

We hope you have enjoyed dipping and diving into *Splash! Asia*, sampling stories in *All About Rice!*, and exploring the *Forest of Stories*, our annotated bibliographies of children's picture books about water, rice and trees from and about Asia and around the world. In this collection, we have gathered stories about and inspired by the most loved and wondrous of living creatures, birds.

Birds live close to us, but also travel far and wide. They are a reminder that we are connected to a much larger world, inspiring us to do what we can, together with our children and grandchildren, to preserve its beauty.

We all dream of flying free to see the world and beyond. Many of us have found that freedom through books, and are happiest helping others, especially children, take flight through their imagination.

We highlight 130 wonderful children's picture books about birds that will be enjoyed for their often humorous and touching reflection of our own lives, gathered under five themes: Birds of a Feather; Flying Against the Odds; On the Wings of Enchantment; Myths, Folklore, Fables; and Transnational (non-fiction and universal themes). This collection features many award-winning books, and authors, illustrators and publishers who are actively involved in AFCC.

We would like to thank the teachers and students from Raffles Institution for their original artwork for the cover and the five themes, and contributing a story about a young boy and his grandfather who explore an island in Singapore while helping a lost hornbill find its way home. We invite you to find the title of this story in the bibliography!

We have featured over 350 children's picture books from Asia and around the world in four publications that have been introduced each year at the annual Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) since 2013. They can be downloaded from this link:

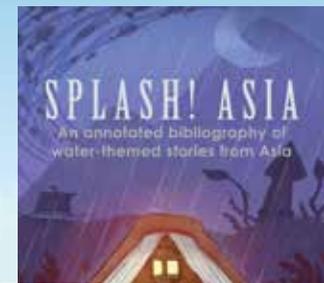
<http://afcc.com.sg/2016/page/publications-2016>.

These annotated bibliographies can help parents and book lovers who are looking for engaging stories, and provide a useful resource for teachers. The call numbers are included for books that can be loaned from public libraries in Singapore.

If you would like to share your favourite stories or new titles to add to this collection, please contact:
afcc@bookcouncil.sg

Evelyn Sue Wong

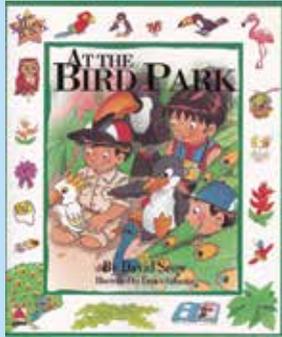
Take Flight! Committee



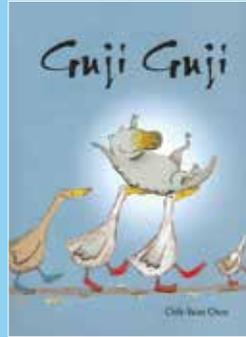


Birds of a Feather

These stories describe birds and other creatures coming together and becoming friends, often embarking on a journey of discovery and learning, mutual trust and understanding.



At the Bird Park
by David Seow and
illustrated by Enrico Sallustio



Guji Guji
by Chih-Yuan Chen

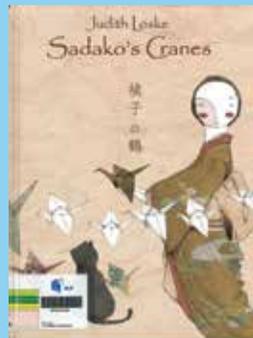


Flying Against the Odds

Loneliness, grief and death are all touched upon in the books in this section. With determination, the help of friends or family, and sometimes just a little bit of luck, the birds in these stories are able to overcome their situations.



The Bear and the Wildcat
by Kazumi Yumoto and
illustrated by Komako Sakai

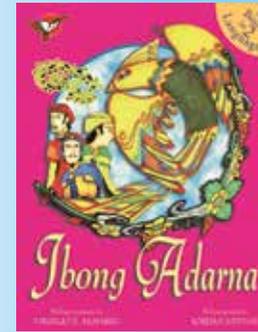


Sadako's Cranes
by Judith Loske

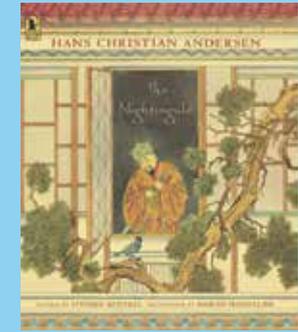


On the Wings of Enchantment

The books in this section contain an element of magic, encompassing stories that tell of the transformation of humans into birds, and others that tell of rebirth and magical discovery.



Ibong Adarna (Adarna Bird)
by Virgilio S. Almarino and
illustrated by Jordan Santos



The Nightingale
by Stephen Mitchell and
illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

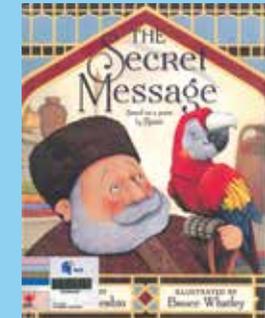


Myths, Folklore, Fables

These stories often provide creative explanations for why birds behave the way they do. Sometimes they are fanciful tales whose origin is lost in time, but have become an integral part of the storytelling tradition of each culture, often with moral lessons interwoven.



The Fox and the Crow
by Manasi Subramaniam and
illustrated by Culpeo S. Fox

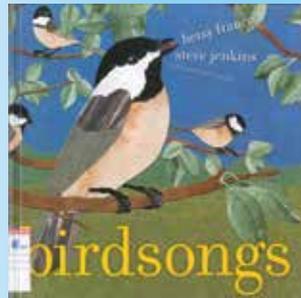


The Secret Message
by Mina Javaherbin and
illustrated by Bruce Whatley



Transnational: Non-fiction and Universal Themes

The gorgeous illustrations and fascinating true stories of birds from around the world as well as inspiring biographies of bird-lovers will engage young readers and expose them to a wide range of experiences.



Bird Songs

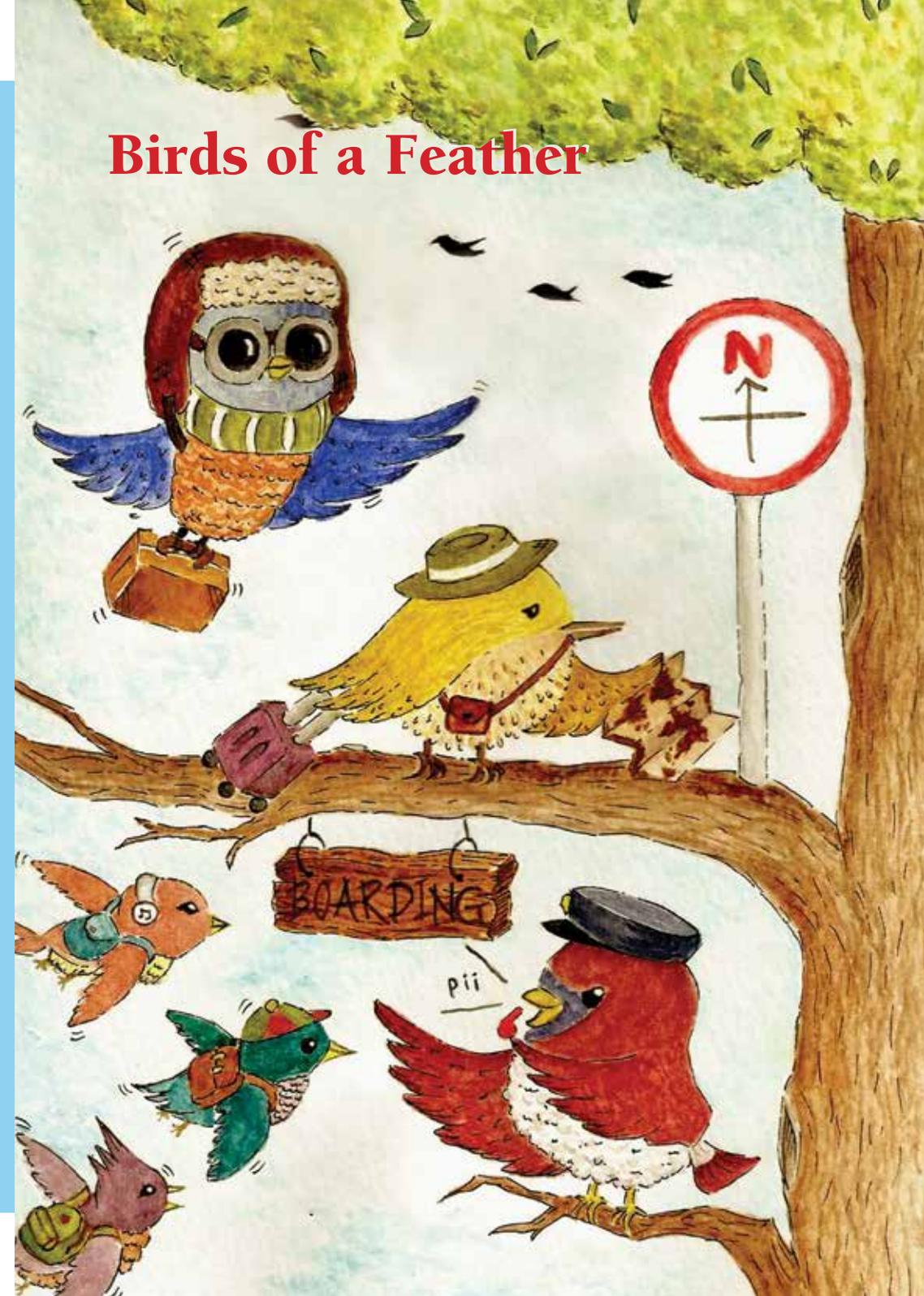
by Betsy Franco and
illustrated by Steve Jenkins



Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova

by Laurel Snyder and
illustrated by Julie Morstad

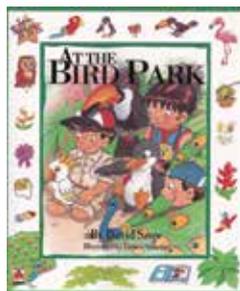
Birds of a Feather



At the Bird Park

Author: David Seow
Illustrator: Enrico Sallustio
(2000). Singapore: Educational Publishing House
ISBN: 9789814046565
Call No.: English J 482.6 SEO

This is an endearing story about the importance of doing good deeds for others. Three children went to the bird park with their parents. They helped a sparrow build its nest. The least desirable and in fact, the worst nest as adjudged by the other birds, the sparrow's nest won the competition in the end for being the best nest in the bird park, built with the help of the children.



A Bird in Winter - Inspired by a Painting by Pieter Bruegel

Author: Helene Kerillis
Illustrator: Stephane Girel
(2011). Munich: Prestel
ISBN: 9783791370804
Call No.: English JP KER

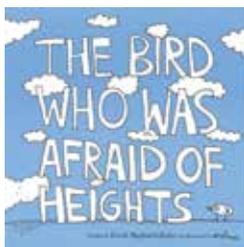
Taking its inspiration from Pieter Bruegel's painting *The Hunters in the Snow*, this lovely picture book, tells of a peasant girl named Mayken who finds a hurt bird one wintry day. She takes the bird home and nurses it until it can fly on its own again. The beautiful illustrations take the readers to snowy valleys, hills and woods, and a glimpse of Bruegel's painting itself.



The Bird Who was Afraid of Heights

Author: Farah Bagharib-Kaltz
Illustrator: Eeshaun
(2008). Singapore: Straits Times Press
ISBN: 9789814266017
Call No.: English J SING BAG

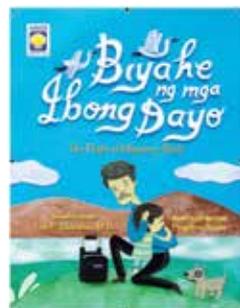
This is the delightful tale of a mynah bird named Eddie who was afraid to fly but was forced to learn in order to rescue his friend from a crow. With enjoyable drawings, this book will resonate well with children who are trying to cope with their fears as it celebrates courage, heroism and friendship.



Biyahang mga Ibong Dayo (The Flight of the Migratory Birds)

Author: Luis Gatmaitan, MD
Illustrator: Pergylene Acuna
(2013). Cebu City: OMF Literature
ISBN: 9789710092574

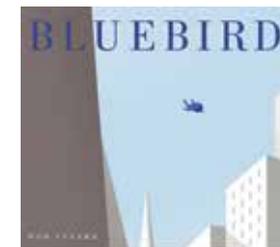
For young Nilo the arrival of migratory birds in his hometown means it is time for his father's return to Dubai. The child sees parallels between the migratory birds, and his parents flying to places far from home in search of better opportunities. This is a touching story about a child of Overseas Filipino Workers, who is left under the care of his grandmother. (English and Filipino)



Bluebird

Author: Bob Staake
(2013). New York: Schwartz & Wade
ISBN: 9780375870378
Call No.: English JP STA

This is a beautiful and moving tale about a young boy, a bluebird and the true meaning of friendship. A tender, wordless picture book which explores such themes as isolation, bullying and sacrificing one's life for one's friend.



Burung Kenek-kenek - Puisi, lukisan dan lagu kanak-kanak (The Little Bird - Poetry, art and song for children)

Author: Hadijah Rahmat
Illustrator: S. Mohdir
(2010). Singapore: HS Yang
ISBN: 9789810852979
Call No.: Malay J 899.281 HAD

This book colourfully showcases the distinctive Malay heritage in terms of culture, arts and values. It is printed with bilingual texts, and infused with images of the rich elements of Malay way of life including the Jawi script, its traditional poetry, folk song and kampung life. (English and Malay)



Caged Bird of Singapore

Author: Helene Gaborit
Illustrator: Claude Sauquet
(2011). Phnom Penh: Open Book Editions
ISBN: 9789996359736
Call No.: English J SING GAB

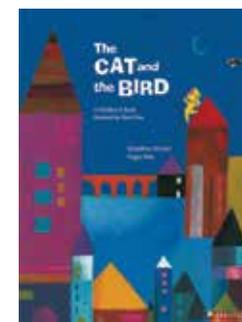
A little girl rescues an injured bird along the banks of the Singapore river. The beautiful story ushers the reader to interesting insights into the way of life in this city-state, as well as provides some important insights about friendship.



The Cat and the Bird: Inspired by a Painting by Paul Klee

Author: Geraldine Elschner
Illustrator: Peggy Nille
(2012). Munich: Prestel
ISBN: 9783791370996
Call No.: English JP ELS

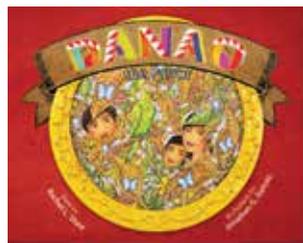
Deriving inspiration from the painting of Paul Klee, this beautifully illustrated picture book tells of the tale of a cat and a bird, and presents the themes of freedom and friendship. Klee's inspiration can be gleaned from the bright colours in images that are associated with the painter, as well as a reproduction of his *Cat and Bird* in the book.



Danao the Parrot

Author: Rachel L. Shaw
Illustrator: Jonathan G. Ranola
(2015). Makati City: Bookmark
ISBN: 9789715698252

Danao is the adventurous parrot who travelled across the Philippines in a quest to find the best place to live. In this journey, he crosses paths with other animals which are only found in this country. These include Philippine eagles, crocodiles, cloud rats, and the small primates, the tarsiers!



The Forever Flowers

Author: Michael J. Rosen
Illustrator: Sonja Danowski
(2014). Mankato, Minnesota: Creative Editions
ISBN: 9781568462738
Call No.: English JP ROS

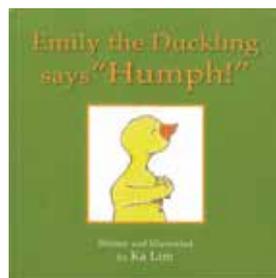
This affectionate story tells of a grouse, its favourite Forever Flowers, and the bond that grew with new-found friends. It explores the themes of discovering happiness, serenity and satisfaction even in the midst of moments of gloom such as the dreariness of winter. It tackles the poignant themes of nurturing and letting go.



Emily the Duckling says "Humph!"

Author: Ka Lim
(2006). Singapore: SNP
ISBN: 9789812481344
Call No.: English J 428.6 LIM

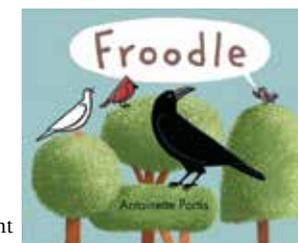
Emily is a duckling who is easily exasperated. She is mostly unhappy, while her mom and older siblings are quite the opposite. This is a simple tale about focusing on the brighter and positive side of every situation, and the value of making the decision to be happy each day, even if not everything falls in place as perfectly as we wish.



Froodle

Author: Antoinette Portis
(2014). New York: Roaring Brook Press
ISBN: 9781596439221
Call No.: English JP POR

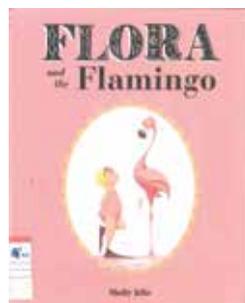
This is a funny book about a little brown bird who simply got tired of singing the same old song which its fellow neighbourhood birds expect him to sing each day. As the little brown bird started spouting off a sound different from its everyday song, the other birds started singing something different too, making the neighbourhood livelier and funnier.



Flora and the Flamingo

Author: Molly Idle
(2013). San Francisco: Chronicle Books
ISBN: 9781452110066
Call No.: English JP IDL

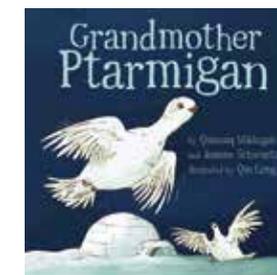
This is an engaging and interactive wordless picture book, depicting the friendship between a girl named Flora and an elegant flamingo. The illustrations in this book possess a charming and endearing appeal as the characters are shown in various turns, twists and moves as they try to dance in synchrony and harmony.



Grandmother Ptarmigan

Authors: Qaunaq Mikkigak & Joanne Schwartz
Illustrator: Qin Leng
(2013). Toronto: Inhabit Media
ISBN: 9781927095522
Call No.: English JP 398.2 MIK

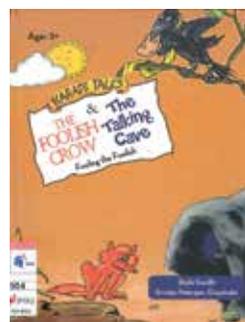
This children's story about a baby ptarmigan whose grandmother's tale stirred him to fly away, is an imaginatively illustrated version of a traditional Inuit story. It gives insights into why baby ptarmigans tend to fly so young and why the female bird cry "nauk, nauk."



The Foolish Crow and The Talking Cave

Author: Sheila Gandhi
Illustrators: Srividya Natarajan, Greystroke
(2010). Chennai: Karadi Tales
ISBN: 9788181902542
Call No.: English JP 398.240954 GAN

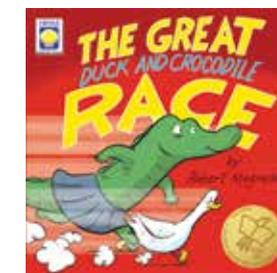
This book deals with such themes as pride, vanity, resourcefulness and quick thinking, made more creative and interesting by the bright and colourful illustrations by Srividya Natarajan and Greystroke.



The Great Duck and Crocodile Race

Author: Robert Magnuson
(2011). Mandaluyong, Manila: OMF Literature
ISBN: 9789710091058

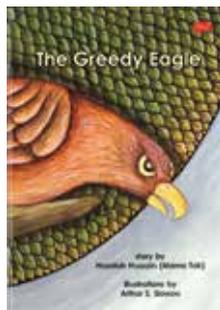
Awarded as one of the best children's reads in the 2012 National Children's Book Awards, *The Great Duck and Crocodile Race* is about two friends who challenge one another to a race, trying to outsmart each other along the way. Children are sure to enjoy this book filled with fun illustrations and deals with fairness, ethics in competition, respect and friendship.



The Greedy Eagle

Author: Hasniah Hussain
Illustrator: Arthur S. Siowou
(2013). Kuala Lumpur: Integra Majujaya
ISBN: 9789670481050

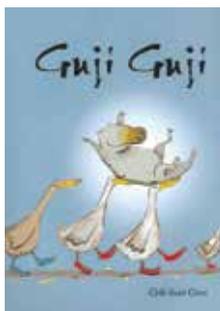
A delightful story of a family of doves, and a greedy eagle who tried to trick and devour the little doves, when their parents went to the jungle to forage for food. The clever little doves managed to save themselves by following their parents' instruction to hide behind their tiny bird house.



Guji Guji

Author: Chih-Yuan Chen
(2004). La Jolla, California: Kane/Miller Book Publishers
ISBN: 9781929132676
Call No.: English JP CHE

The story begins with a crocodile egg finding its way into a duck's nest. Guji-Guji, as the baby in the egg is named by the mother duck, eventually faces an existential dilemma: Is he a duck or is he a crocodile? Should he embrace his true nature and do what the crocodiles ask him to, or should he go on waddling like the duck that he thinks he is?



Happy Birthday Mr. Kang

Author: Susan L. Roth
(2001). Washington D.C.: National Geographic Society
ISBN: 9780792277231
Call No.: English ACL ROT

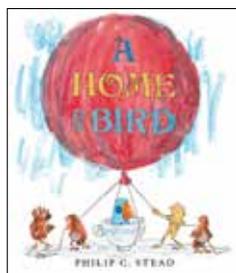
During his 70th birthday celebration, Mr. Kang's three wishes are: to paint, to read the New York Times daily, and to own a hua mei bird. The bird, which he eventually set free, symbolized Mr. Kang's connection to his grandfather. A touching tale with underlying themes of freedom and choice, treasuring one's heritage while acknowledging diversity in the environment in which new migrants live.



A Home for Bird

Author: Philip C. Stead
(2012). New York: Roaring Brook Press
ISBN: 9781596437111
Call No.: English JP STE

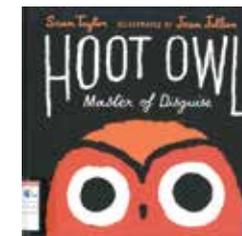
This is an affectionate tale about Vernon, the toad, who resolved to help his silent blue bird friend find its home. Written by Caldecott awardee Philip Stead, the book is a wonderful evocation of the journey in search for home and friendship forged along the way.



Hoot Owl: Master of Disguise

Author: Sean Taylor
Illustrator: Jean Jullien
(2015). Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press
ISBN: 9780763675783
Call No.: English JP TAY

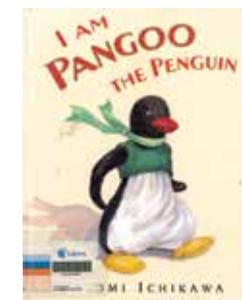
This picture book is about an extraordinary owl called Hoot Owl, who claims to be a master of disguise, as he devises different ways to catch his prey in the dark night. This is a hilarious book with superbly funny illustrations, as Hoot Owl takes us on his comical nightly adventures.



I Am Pangoo the Penguin

Author: Satomi Ichikawa
(2006). New York: Philomel Books
ISBN: 9780399233135
Call No.: English JP ICH

This is about Pangoo, a stuffed penguin, whose sense of assurance and love by the little boy Danny resounds in the first line of the book "I love Danny and Danny loves me." However, Danny receives many new toy animals on his birthday. The touching tale speaks about search for one's identity, the feeling of being neglected, the joy of being accepted and reunited with one's beloved.



Kotori (Little Birds)

Author: Susumu Shingu
(2007). Tokyo: Bunka
ISBN: 9784579404346

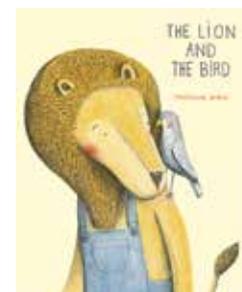
This beautifully illustrated wordless picture book is by renowned Japanese sculptor and author/illustrator, Susumu Shingo, whose works celebrate harmony with nature. Two birds raise a family, from building a nest to caring for the hungry young who hatch from their shells with mouths wide open, until they learn to fly, first near home, and then high into the clear blue sky. (Japanese)



The Lion and the Bird

Author: Marianne Dubuc
(2014). New York: Enchanted Lion Books
ISBN: 9781592701513
Call No.: English JP DUB

A lion found an injured bird in his garden. He nurtured it to recovery. This is a touching tale about the friendship that was forged between two unlikely creatures, the lion and the bird, the sorrow of letting go, the silence in waiting, and the joy of being reunited once again.



The Magic Bird

Author: Ken Spillman
Illustrator: Malavika PC
(2015). Petaling Jaya, Selangor: Magicbird
ISBN: 9789671171998

Written in down-to-earth prose, combined with haunting illustrations, this is a persuasive picture book which speaks about the importance of telling stories and sharing them as a way of going beyond one's narrow confines. Sharing stories with others and allowing them to appreciate them is likened to spreading one's wings like a bird.



The Naughty Mynah (Tiao Pi de Ba Ge)

Author: Evelyn Sue Wong
Illustrator: Tee Sieok Bing
(2014). Singapore: AFCC Publications
ISBN: 9789810903381
Call No.: English J WON

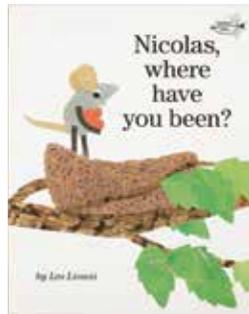
This is a humorous tale about a visiting art teacher befriending a clever but mischievous mynah who agrees to help him learn Mandarin. It goes with him on the first day of school to surprise the students, but translates the opposite of everything the teacher says! Children will appreciate the importance of bilingualism in their daily lives. (English and Chinese)



Nicolas, Where Have You Been?

Author: Leo Lionni
(1987). New York: Dragonfly Books
ISBN: 9780375855498
Call No.: English JP LIO

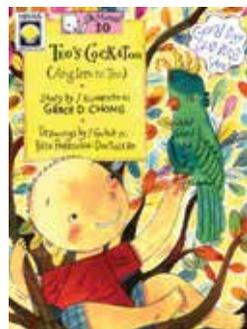
A tale about mice and birds, and trust. Nicolas is a mouse in search of the juiciest berries. His quests brings him to a close encounter with birds he and his fellow mice regard as enemies, thus allowing them the opportunity to realise the generosity of these creatures they once thought of as adversaries. In the process, Nicolas and his friends learn to trust the birds.



Oh, Mateo #10: Teo's Cockatoo

Author: Grace D. Chong
Illustrator: Beth Parrocha-Doctolero
(2007). Mandaluyong, Manila: OMF Literature
ISBN: 9789710495054

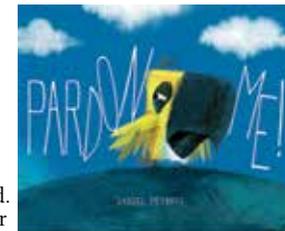
In this book, one in a series about Mateo, a farmer's son, Teo meets a captive and ill-treated green cockatoo who loves to spout off bad words. As always, Teo's friendship will leave a deep mark in this lonely bird's life once their encounter begins. (English and Filipino)



Pardon Me!

Author: Daniel Miyares
(2014). New York: Simon & Schuster
ISBN: 9781442489974
Call No.: English JP MIY

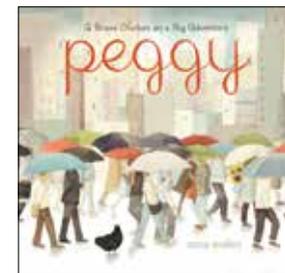
A little bird would like to have his own quiet space in the swamp. Other creatures encroach on this tiny space one after another— a heron, a frog and a turtle. They all say “pardon me” to the little bird. Sadly, the little bird's space is actually a hungry creature's back. Poor little bird. “Burp.”



Peggy: A Brave Chicken on a Big Adventure

Author: Anna Walker
(2014). New York: Clarion Books
ISBN: 9780544259003
Call No.: English JP WAL

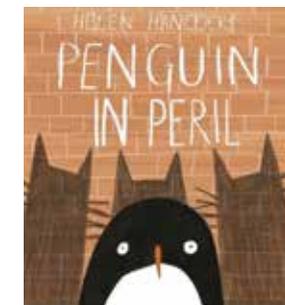
This picture book tells of a chicken named Peggy, who one windy day got swept by a big blast of wind, away from her home and into an adventure in the city. This charmingly illustrated picture book narrates Peggy's bravery as she treaded unfamiliar streets, met strangers and found her way back home.



Penguin in Peril

Author: Helen Hancocks
(2013). Dorking, Surrey: Templar
ISBN: 9781848778627
Call No.: English JP HAN

Three red hungry cats run out of food. They find three gold coins. Instead of going to the grocery store, they watch a movie. Even more famished, they come up with a brilliant scheme to steal a penguin from the zoo. There is a subtle interplay between the amusing and detailed imagery and text. This is an impeccably designed picture book that was shortlisted for several awards.



Sasha Visits the Bird Park

Author: Shamini Flint
Illustrator: Alpana Ahuja
(2005). Singapore: Sunbear
ISBN: 9789810538583
Call No.: English J SING SHA

One of a series of books, a young girl Sasha continues her journey of learning and adventure, this time at the Jurong Bird Park, where she encounters diverse species of birds. Her visit to one of the best bird parks in the world is captured in colourful and fun illustrations.



Seed Magic

Author: Jane Buchanan
Illustrator: Charlotte Riley-Webb
(2011). Atlanta: Peachtree
ISBN: 9781561456222
Call No.: English JP BUC

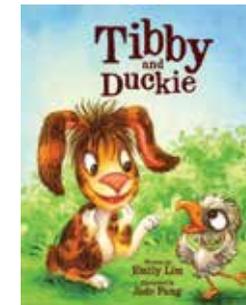
A delightful story of how a little girl's wish to see a garden of flowers comes true. Singing birds of different colours, fly to a beautiful garden by her window that grows from magic seeds given to her by an old man.



Tibby and Duckie

Author: Emily Lim
Illustrator: Jade Fang
(2014). Singapore: Epigram Books
ISBN: 9789814615716
Call No.: English J LIM

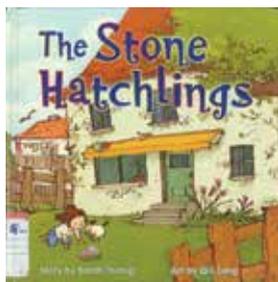
Duckie, unlike other ducks, could not swim. Tibby, the tiger-bunny tries to help. With charming and colourful illustrations, this is a tale of persistence, friendship, tolerance and acceptance, as Duckie discovers her real self through the help of her friend Tibby.



The Stone Hatchlings

Author: Sarah Tsiang
Illustrator: Qin Leng
(2012). New York: Annick Press
ISBN: 9781554514335
Call No.: English JP TSI

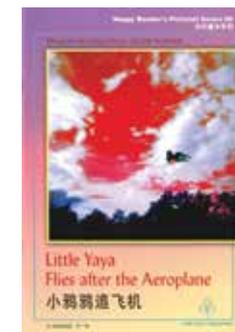
Abby finds two stones in her backyard. She imagines they are two eggs and cares for them until they hatch and become little chicks. One day, Abby realizes it is time for her to let the birds go. A beautifully illustrated book that celebrates the wonders of a child's imagination, for whom all things are possible.



Xiao Ya Ya Zhui Fei Ji (Little Yaya Flies After the Aeroplane)

Author: Wan Yiguang
Illustrator: Jin Ya
(2002). Singapore: Pan Asia
ISBN: 9789812222176
Call No.: English J WXG

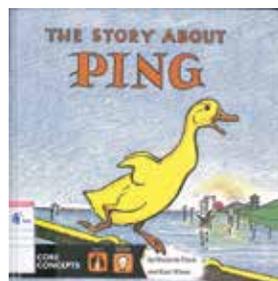
An amusing bilingual story about a little crow named Yaya who thinks very highly of himself. He wants to catch and bring down an airplane because he found it noisy. Yaya's friends allow him to indulge in his desire and efforts, fully knowing the futility of his quest. (English and Chinese)



The Story About Ping

Author: Majorie Flack & Kurt Wiese
(2014). New York: Grosset & Dunlap
ISBN: 9780448482330
Call No.: English JP FLA

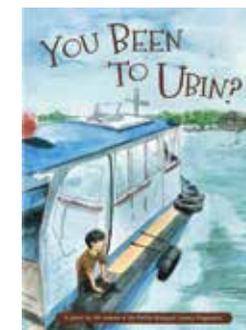
Children will relate well with Ping, an adventurous duck who wanted to avoid a spanking, and so set out to explore the interesting world near his home, along the Yangtze River. This is a touching tale of how it feels to be away from home and loved ones, and the joy of being reunited.



You Been to Ubin?

Authors: Chia Yun Ze, Choo Xin Yi, Gregory Yap, Melissa Chia, Pearlynn Sim, Terh Shin Huoy
Illustrator: Lim Zhi Jie
(2013). Singapore: Raffles Institution
ISBN: 9789810763886
Call No.: English J CHI / J 577.82095957 CHI

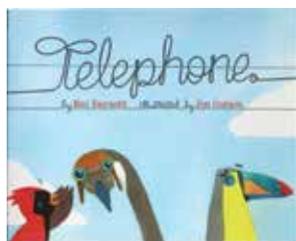
A young boy named Lloyd and his grandfather are exploring Pulau Ubin. They meet a hornbill Tomo, who is lost and can't find his way home. They travel the island together, learning much along the way. This is an enjoyable guide for children that raises awareness of threats to marine life.



Telephone

Author: Mac Barnett
Illustrator: Jen Corace
(2014). San Francisco: Chronicle Books
ISBN: 9781452110233
Call No.: English JP BAR

A mother bird asks a friend to tell her son to come home for dinner. Her message gets passed along again and again to birds sitting on a telephone line, each with its own understanding of mama bird's message. A hilarious picture book with delightful illustrations which children are sure to enjoy.



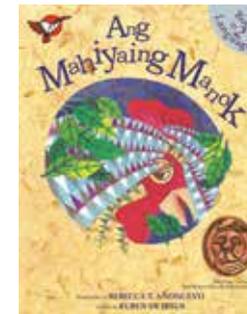
Flying Against the Odds



Ang Mahiyaing Manok (The Shy Rooster)

Author: Rebecca T. Anonuevo
Illustrator: Ruben de Jesus
(2000). Quezon City: Adarna House
ISBN: 9789715080743

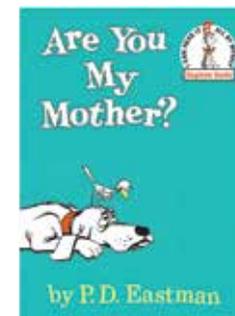
This is the tale of a shy young rooster, who simply could not seem to crow in the same way as other roosters. The shy rooster eventually managed to overcome his shyness, with the help and encouragement of kind friends and his mother. An uplifting story about overcoming one's insecurities through the patience, love and acceptance of the community.
(English and Filipino)



Are You My Mother?

Author: P. D. Eastman
(1960). New York: Random House
ISBN: 9780394900186
Call No.: English JP EAS

A baby bird emerged from its egg while mama bird was looking for food. When he saw that he was alone, he naturally looked for his mother. He tried to fly and landed smack on the ground, asking everyone he sees the question: "Are you my Mother?" This is a touching tale of the sense of longing and determination, in the midst of vulnerability and fragility.



The Bear and the Wildcat

Author: Kazumi Yumoto
Illustrator: Komako Sakai
(2011). Wellington: Gecko Press
ISBN: 9781877467707
Call No.: English JP YUM

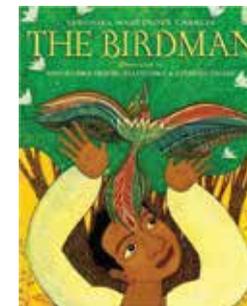
A tender tale about a bear who has been mourning the death of a beloved little bird. He finds the strength to let go of the sadness, with the help of a wildcat. The bear decides to keep the bird's memories safely in his heart, and to try to be happy again. He leaves to travel the world with his new friend.



The Birdman

Author: Veronika Martenova Charles
Illustrators: Annouchka Gravel Galouchko & Stephan Daigle
(2006). Canada: Tundra Books
ISBN: 9780887767401

The Birdman is a beautifully illustrated tale based on a true story. It tells of a man who lost his children because of a tragic accident. He nursed a sick caged bird he bought from the market back to health and eventually set it free, helping him to grieve more fully and be freed from his loss and pain.



Blackbird

Author: Suzy Lee
(2007). Seoul: Chondung Books
ISBN: 9788990025302

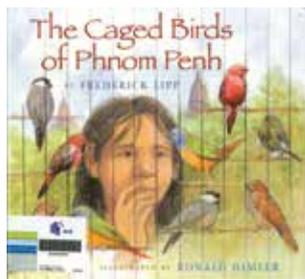
Encased in monochromatic black and white, lithographic crayon transforms a drawing of a sad little girl, a dog, and a huge black bird into something timeless and surreal. A sad girl derives comfort from a huge blackbird who flew her away from quarrelling parents and a home filled with tension. On the wings of this magical bird, the girl flies, lets go, and comes back whole and smiling. (Korean)



The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh

Author: Frederick Lipp
Illustrator: Ronald Himler
(2001). New York: Holiday House
ISBN: 9780823415342
Call No.: English ACL LIP

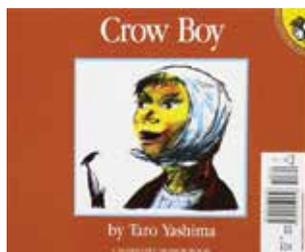
This picture book is filled with symbols as it tells of Ary, a young girl's longing to have the best for her family. The birds symbolise this hope, as they are believed to help dreams be fulfilled by carrying wishes to the sky. Ary is a symbol of determination and strong will, as she holds on to her heart's hopes.



Crow Boy

Author: Taro Yashima
(1976). New York: Puffin Books
ISBN: 9780140501728

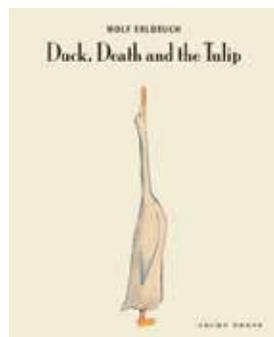
The title refers to a reclusive Japanese boy named Chibi, who is perceived as slow and unintelligent by most of his schoolmates, until a nurturing school teacher decides to uncover his hidden talents and skills. A touching tale about the struggles of a child who may have special needs, the joys of discovering his strengths, and finding acceptance.



Duck Death and the Tulip

Author: Wolf Erlbruch
(2011). Wellington: Gecko Press
ISBN: 9781877579028
Call No.: English JP ERL

Death materializes in a form that is similar to Erlbruch's earlier picture book, holding a red tulip. While this book may not be for all young readers and parents, it portrays death in a matter-of-fact manner that can be sensitively discussed with children through this story.



En Nho (Little Swallow)

Author: Le Phuong Lien
Illustrator: Nguyen Thi Mai Hoa
(2013). Hanoi: Kim Dong
ISBN: 5131104140007

A young girl rescues a sparrow who fell off a window. Nursing the little bird until it recovers she learns profound lessons as she realises that to be able to fly like a sparrow, she should equip herself with knowledge and learning. (Vietnamese)



A Feather

Author: Cao Wenxuan
Illustrator: Roger Mello
(2015). Tokyo: MightyBook
ISBN: 9784902617344

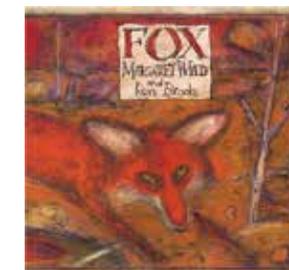
This beautifully illustrated story is a Japanese version of the book written by Cao Wenxuan, through the translation of Kyoko Hamano. The touching journey of the feather in search of where it came from brings it face to face with various birds, both kind and unkind, until the moment of painful separation comes between the feather and a kind bird. (Japanese)



Fox

Author: Margaret Wild
Illustrator: Ron Brooks
(2000). Sydney: Allen & Unwin
ISBN: 9781864489330
Call No.: English JP WIL

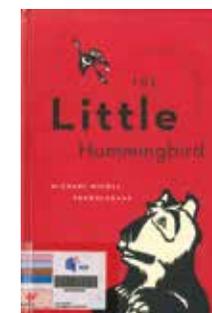
This book is a story of how two broken creatures found each other and gave each other the stuff of their dreams. Dog and Magpie discover what is beautiful and bright in each of their wounded beings, keeping the darkness represented by the Fox somewhat at bay. The ending could also be a spark for thoughtful discussions on what constitutes loyalty and betrayal among friends.



The Little Hummingbird

Author: Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
(2010). Vancouver: Greystone Books
ISBN: 9781553655336
Call No.: English JP 398.2 YAH

This beautifully illustrated children's book by internationally renowned Haida artist Yahgulanaas is a moving tale about a fearless hummingbird who tried to save the rainforest from fire, even as the rest of the other animals doubted she could make a difference. It is based on a South American indigenous story, and is a modified version of the award-winning *Flight of the Hummingbird* that upholds heroism and responsibility towards one's homeland.



Momoko and the Pretty Bird

Author: Chihiro Iwasaki
(2012). Tokyo: Shiko Sha
ISBN: 9784783400516

A child's longing for company, a little bird's warm presence through its songs, freedom, the joy of keeping and the pain of letting go, these are some of the heart-warming subjects of this lovely picture book. One of the most poignant moments is when the little girl realizes the unhappiness of the bird inside the cage, and her decision to set it free. (Japanese)



Rudi's Pond

Author: Eve Bunting
Illustrator: Ronald Himler
(1999). New York: Clarion Books
ISBN: 9780395890677
Call No.: English JP BUN

A girl loses her best friend to illness, but discovers some solace from a hummingbird which is drawn to a birdfeeder that they made together before he died. This book beautifully and touchingly illustrates the overcoming of loss at a young age.



Na Zhi Shen Lan Se De Niao Shi Wo Ba Ba (That Deep Blue Bird is My Daddy)

Author: Wei Jie
Illustrator: He Yunzhi
(2011). Jinan, Shandong: Tomorrow
ISBN: 9787533267544
Call No.: Chinese JP WIJ

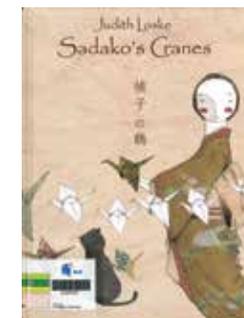
An amusing tale about a father and his son who both revel in the presence of the birds hovering around the tree. The boy takes delight in his dad as he assumes the role of a deep blue bird, tirelessly orchestrating the flight of birds. The story could also be used as a fun way to learn simple math facts.



Sadako's Cranes

Author: Judith Loske
(2011). Hong Kong: Michael Neugebauer
ISBN: 9789881512604
Call No.: English JP LOS

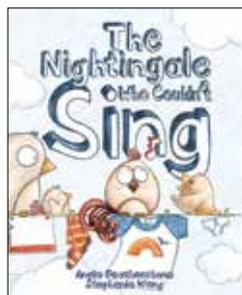
This book is a stirring tale about Sadako Sasaki's struggle with leukaemia. In her hope to recover and live, Sadako started folding cranes, believing in the Japanese legend that says anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes will have her wish granted. This moving story is made more compelling by the beautiful coloured-pencil illustrations.



The Nightingale Who Couldn't Sing

Author: Angie Featherstone
Illustrator: Stephanie Wong
(2012). Singapore: Epigram Books
ISBN: 9789810726188
Call No.: English J SING FEA

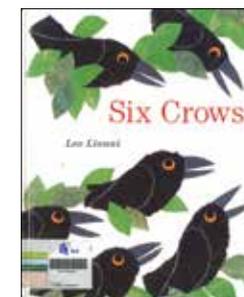
This is the touching story of Holly, the nightingale who wanted to be able to sing like her brothers and sisters but couldn't, so she ran away from her family. Lost and afraid in the forest, her mother found her and assured her that she was deeply loved for who she was, and it did not matter whether or not she could sing as beautifully as other nightingales.



Six Crows

Author: Leo Lionni
(2010). New York: Alfred A. Knopf
ISBN: 9780375845505
Call No.: English JP LIO

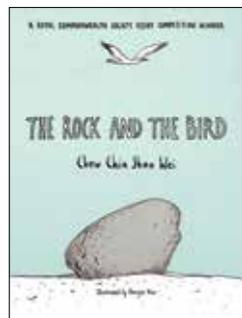
This is a story of the power of dialogue and reasoned conversation. A farmer who is bent on protecting his wheat from being eaten by six crows finds peace with them. It is a delightful account of how amicable settlements can be possible by openness and a willingness to listen.



The Rock and the Bird

Author: Chew Chia Shao Wei
Illustrator: Anngie Neo
(2013). Singapore: Epigram Books
ISBN: 9789810755553
Call No.: English Y CHE

A stirring tale about friendship, this award-winning book presents the antagonistic beginnings between a rock and a bird, and how it evolves into a beautiful camaraderie. The rock comes to cherish the friendship deeply, sensitively captured in the images, as time passed.

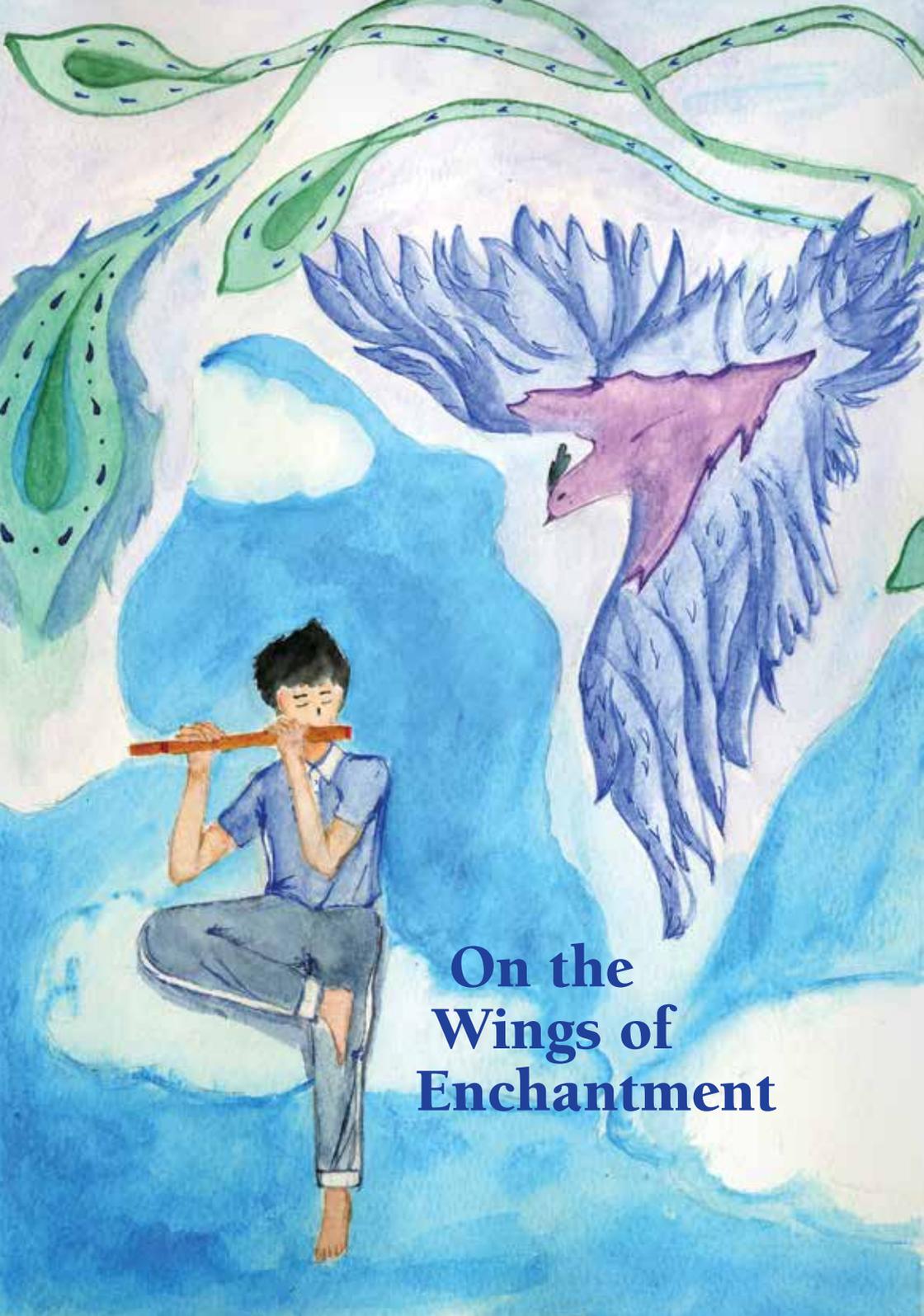


Xun Zhao (The Search)

Author: Lee Kow Fong
(2015). Singapore: Lingzi Media
ISBN: 9789814671347
Call No.: Chinese J SING AXG

A lonely boy finds company in a friendly penguin whose cheery presence brings him much delight, as he searches for what it means to be "not alone". A warm story of simple joys that can be derived from the beauty of nature, as well as the presence of a friend.





On the Wings of Enchantment

Bai Niao Yu Yi

Author: Cai Gao
(2013). Hangzhou: Zhejiang Shao Nian Er Tong Chu Ban She
ISBN: 9787534276613
Call No.: Chinese JS CIG

Ah Zhuang is a hardworking farmer. He marries the beautiful Ah Cai who has come to life from a painting. The selfish king forces them to weave him a robe of feathers from one hundred birds, but he is vanquished when Ah Cai breathes life into the robe which carries the king away, and Ah Zhuang and Ah Cai are able to live their lives in joy and freedom together.



The Bird with the Golden Wings: Stories of Wit and Magic

Author: Sudha Murty
Illustrator: Ajanta Guhathakurta
(2009). New Delhi: Penguin
ISBN: 9780143331032
Call No.: English J 398.2 MUR

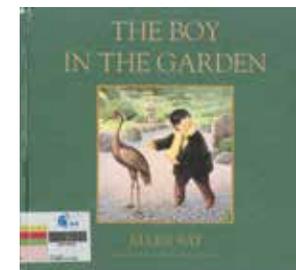
This book puts together some favourite age old fables, amusingly told by Sudha Murty and presented with entertaining illustrations for children to enjoy. The book highlights such enduring themes as trust, the tragic effects of greed, the importance of respect for one's elders, and the advantages of a quick mind.



The Boy in the Garden

Author: Allen Say
(2010). New York: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children
ISBN: 9780547214108
Call No.: English JP SAY

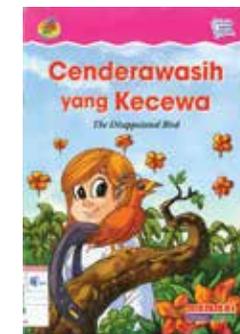
This thoughtful, quiet book is a prime example of how intertextuality works in children's literature. It is based on a Japanese folktale about *The Grateful Crane*, which was read to a young boy, Jiro. The strange and magical folktale left such a deep imprint that when Jiro and his father visited the huge home of Mr. Ozu, a family friend, during the New Year, he could still hear the echoes of his Mother's story ringing in his ears.



Cenderawasih yang Kecewa (The Disappointed Bird)

Authors: Norul Azila Arifin & Mimi Samuel
(2014). Kuala Lumpur: Pustaka Karya Intelek
ISBN: 9789670653013
Call No.: Malay JP NOR / JP 398.2 NOR

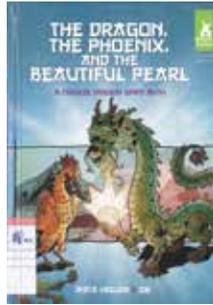
This bilingual story tells of a young woman, Cenderasih, who was disappointed with her husband when he changed his ways after marriage. She turned into a bird and flew to "fairyland", leaving her husband and baby. Realising the loss for his son and himself, Kamat, her husband, searched for her and finally reunited her with the family. The tale imparts lessons on family life and faithfulness to marital responsibilities.
(English and Malay)



The Dragon, the Phoenix and the Beautiful Pearl

Author: Anita Yasuda
Illustrator: Jok
(2014). Edina, Minnesota: Magic Wagon
ISBN: 9781624020308
Call No.: English J YAS

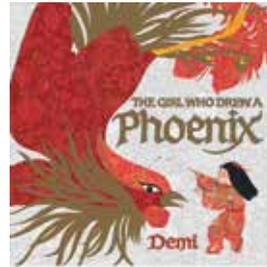
This tale tells of the Chinese myth about two very good friends, the dragon and the phoenix, who struggled to recover their beautiful pearl from the goddess Xi Wang Mu. As they fought to get the beautiful pearl, it fell to the earth and turned into a lake. The two friends decided to guard this lake by transforming themselves into mountains.



The Girl Who Drew a Phoenix

Author: Demi
(2008). New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books
ISBN: 9781416953470
Call No.: English JP DEM

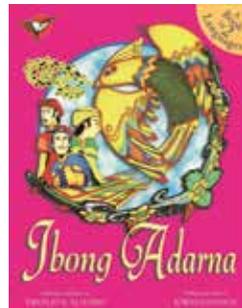
This is an artistic rendition of the Chinese myth about a queen phoenix and her friends who help a girl, not only with her art, but more profoundly, in inculcating virtues and qualities of wisdom, clear sight, equality, generosity and right judgment. The book is made richer by the exquisite art work in predominantly red shades.



Ibong Adarna (Adarna Bird)

Author: Virgilio S. Almaro
Illustrator: Jordan Santos
(1980). Quezon City: Adarna House
ISBN: 9789715081252

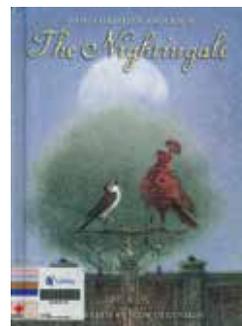
This is a well-known Philippine folktale, filled with adventures and magic. It tells of the exploits of three princes as they journey to capture the elusive bird, Adarna, whose beautiful songs can cure their ailing father, the king. It is the valiant Don Juan, the youngest of the brood, who successfully brings the bird back with him to the kingdom and to his ailing father. (English and Filipino)



The Nightingale

Author: Hans Christian Andersen
Illustrator: Igor Oleynikov
(2007). New York: Purple Bear Books
ISBN: 9781933327310
Call No.: English JP 398.2 AND

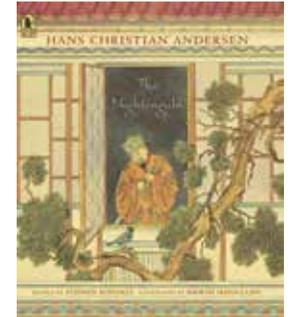
An elegant tale of the Hans Christian Andersen classic, about a nightingale who sings beautifully, and has captured the heart of a Chinese emperor. The beautiful and sophisticated art work on every spread adds to the enduring appeal of this classic tale.



The Nightingale

Author: Stephen Mitchell
Illustrator: Bagram Ibatoulline
(2002). London: Walker Books
ISBN: 9780744585285
Call No.: English J 398.2 MIT

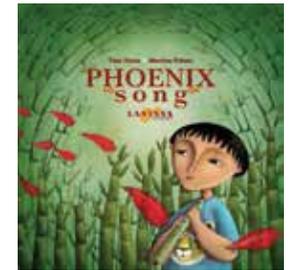
This is a humorous retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Nightingale*, which tells of a bird singing beautifully in a forest in the emperor's realm. Awesome illustrations which are intricate and inspiring make this version a truly engaging retelling of a favourite classic.



Phoenix Song

Author: Tutu Dutta
Illustrator: Martina Peluso
(2015). London: Lantana
ISBN: 9780993225345

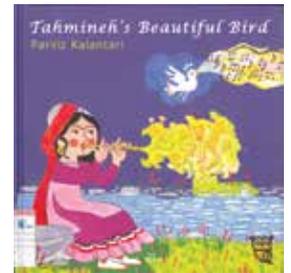
This is an enchanting story of a boy who rescued his missing brothers by summoning the magical phoenix through his heartfelt playing of the flute. The story throws light on the character of the phoenix, the magical bird which represents restoration of life and spring, as well as the xiao, which in Chinese legend is a special instrument imbued with magic and infused with myths.



Tahmineh's Beautiful Bird

Author: Parviz Kalantari
(2015). London: Tiny Owl
ISBN: 9781910328064
Call No.: English JP KAL

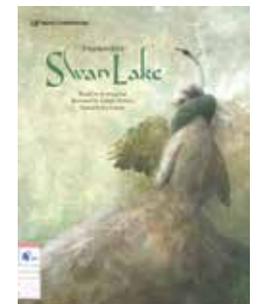
This book is about Tahmineh, a pasture girl from the Iranian tribe of Qashqai, a nomadic group of people. Tahmineh met a bird who sang so beautifully that she wanted to keep it. However, she only managed to have its image woven in a chanteh. The bird came to life from the woven picture and sang beautifully. A colourful book filled with images of the life and ways of Tahmineh's tribe.

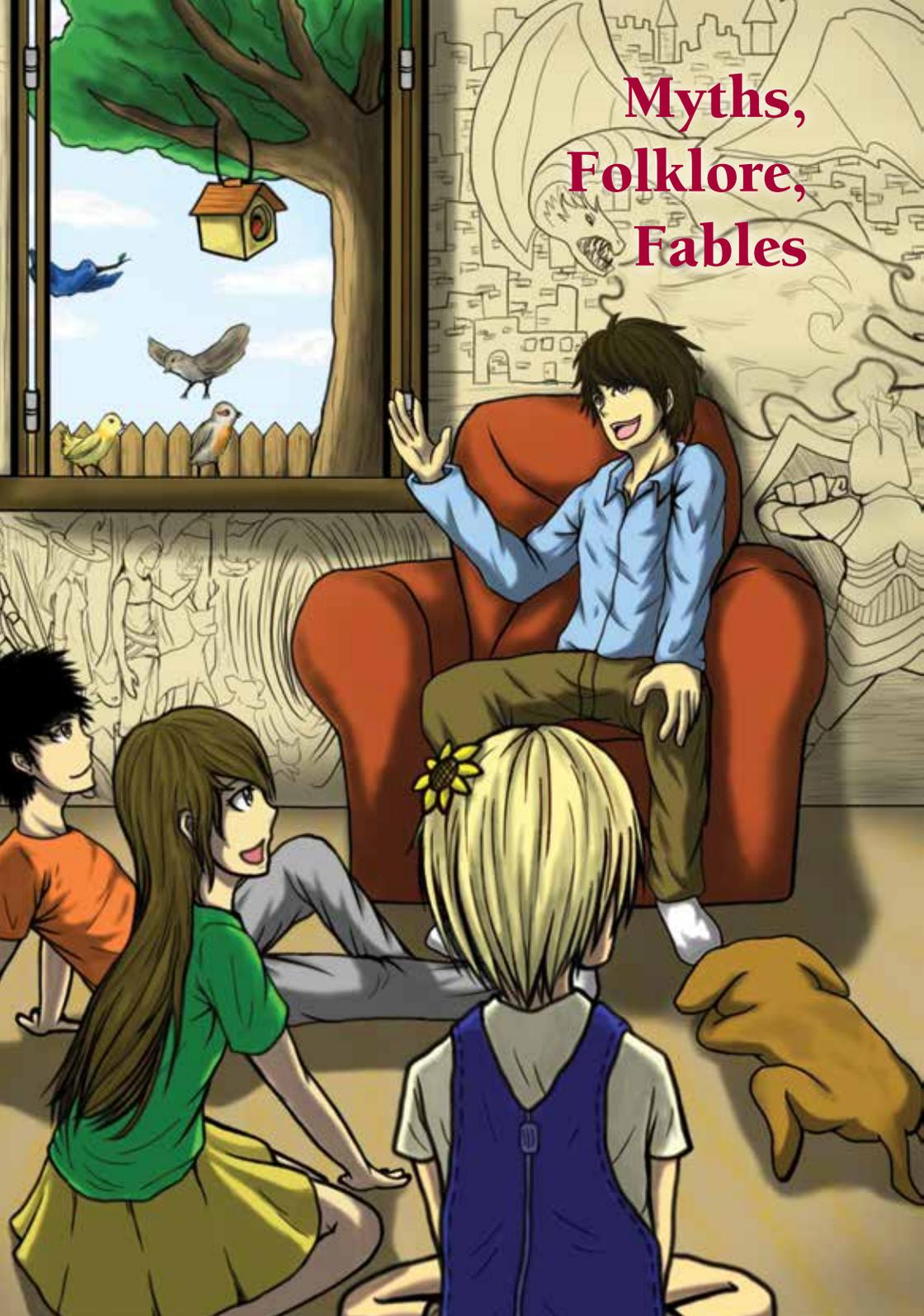


Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake

Author: Ji-yeong Lee
Illustrator: Gabriel Pacheco
(2015). Big & Small
ISBN: 9781925233827
Call No.: English JP LEE

This book brings to life Tchaikovsky's memorable ballet about the swan princess Odette and Prince Siegfried for children to enjoy. This picture book conveys the strength, resilience and power of true love amidst trials and adversities. The pages are filled with exquisite illustrations, echoing the classic theme for which this story is known.





Myths, Folklore, Fables

Bakawan (Mangroves)

Authors: Catherine Yu Untalan, Reena Rae De Leon Sarmiento, Mae Astrid Tobias
 Illustrator: Van Zeus Allen Bascon
 (2009). Quezon City: Adarna House
 ISBN: 9789715083423

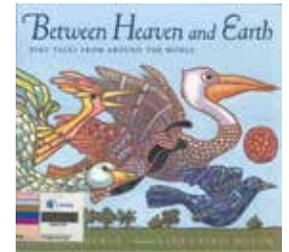
This is a Philippine tale about a heron (*Tagak* in Filipino) who nearly destroyed the beautiful home where he and his friends lived in Bakawan (mangroves) as he brought back so many things from his travels. The animals help one another restore their habitat by cleaning up the waste. (English and Filipino)



Between Heaven and Earth: Bird Tales from Around the World

Author: Howard Norman
 Illustrators: Leo Dillon & Diane Dillon
 (2004). Orlando: Gulliver Books
 ISBN: 9780152019822
 Call No.: English J 398.24 NOR

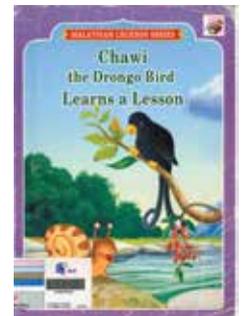
This book of bird tales from China, Sri Lanka, Africa, Australia and Norway by an award-winning author were originally told to him by native speakers at a folktale conference. Poetically woven into splendid images by Caldecott medallist illustrators, this book will be loved by children and adults alike.



Chawi the Drongo Bird Learns a Lesson

(2005). Kuala Lumpur: Kohwai & Young
 ISBN: 9789833281787
 Call No.: English J 398.2 CHA

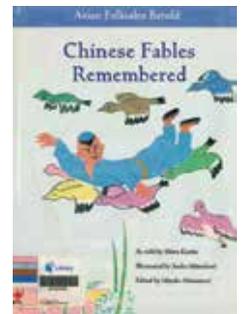
This tale tells of how Chawi, a pompous Drongo bird, is beaten in a race by Siput, a clever snail, teaching the haughty bird an enduring lesson about humility and greatness. Having lost the race, Chawi honours his word to take care and protect Siput's garden.



Chinese Fables Remembered

Author: Miwa Kurita
 Illustrator: Saoko Mitsukuri
 (2006). Berkeley: HEIAN
 ISBN: 9780893469450
 Call No.: English JP 398.2 KUR

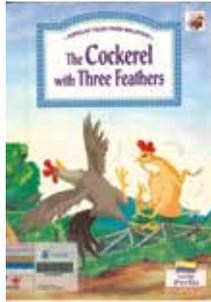
This picture book, part of an Asian Folktale Series, features two Chinese fables: "The Brothers and the Birds" and "The Two Rooster Friends" that convey universal lessons about the misfortunes of selfishness and the need for humility.



The Cockerel with Three Feathers

Author: Suzee Leong
(2005). Kuala Lumpur: Kohwai & Young
ISBN: 9789833281589
Call No.: English JP 398.2 LEO

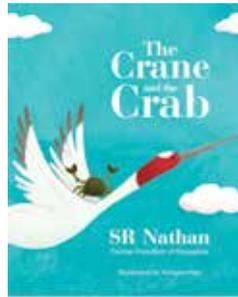
This is a retelling of a well-known tale in Malaysia about a boy and his cockerel who only had three feathers. It is a story about courage and undaunted belief in one's inner strength and capabilities, despite all odds. The picture book captures in colourful illustrations everyday images of rural life in Malaysia.



The Crane and the Crab

Author: S. R. Nathan
Illustrator: Anngee Neo
(2013). Singapore: Epigram Books
ISBN: 9789810735906
Call No.: English J SING NAT

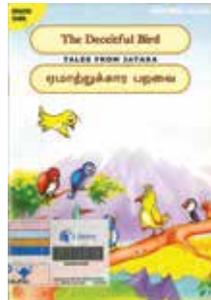
Drawn with appealing artwork, this story is a retelling of the folktale about a sly crane who fooled the fish in a drying pond into believing that he can help them reach the lake. A wise, discerning crab uncovered his mischief and taught him a lesson about the pains of betraying another's trust.



The Deceitful Bird: Tales from Jataka

Author: S. Jayaraman
Bangalore: Media Fusion
ISBN: 9788183003780
Call No.: English JP 398.2 EMA

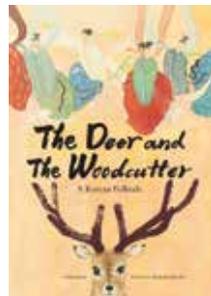
The book tells of a cunning bird who decides to keep a secret from his friends about the grains that fall on the road from carts passing by. While the rest of the flock search for food to share with all, the bird eats his fill without sharing with anyone. The story ends tragically with the death of the bird and a strong message about the destructive outcome of selfishness. (English and Tamil)



The Deer and the Woodcutter - A Korean Folktale

Author: Kim So-un
Illustrator: Jeong Kyoung-sim
(2005). Boston: Tuttle
ISBN: 9780804836555
Call No.: English JP 398.2 KIM

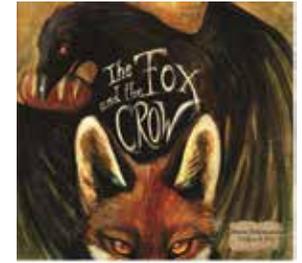
This book, based on a popular Korean folktale, tells us why roosters look up and cry loudly at dawn. A lovelorn woodcutter married a beautiful fairy by trickery, with the help of a deer. When the fairy discovered his dishonesty and returned to the heavens leaving him alone again, he turned into a rooster, calling out for her every day.



The Fox and the Crow

Author: Manasi Subramaniam
Illustrator: Culpeo S. Fox
(2014). Chennai: Karadi Tales
ISBN: 9788181903037
Call No.: English JP 398.2 MAN

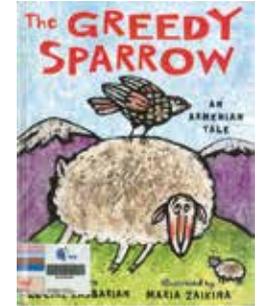
This is a retelling of one of Aesop's most remembered fables, about a fox and a crow competing for a piece of bread. What makes this version special are the brilliant brushed illustrations, with night time images of the protagonists in the "dark edges" of the woods.



The Greedy Sparrow: An Armenian tale

Author: Lucine Kasbarian
Illustrator: Maria Zaikina
(2011). New York: Marshall Cavendish
ISBN: 9780761458210
Call No.: English JP 398.2 KAS

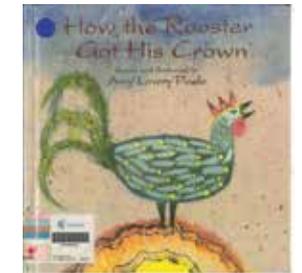
This book is based on an Armenian folktale, about a sparrow who traded a thorn in his foot for bread, then a sheep, then for a bride, then a flute, only to end up where he started, with a thorn in his foot. The illustrations are catchy, with black borders and images that capture elements of Armenian traditional life and culture.



How the Rooster Got His Crown

Author: Amy Lowry Poole
(1999). New York: Holiday House
ISBN: 9780823413898
Call No.: English JP 398.2 POO

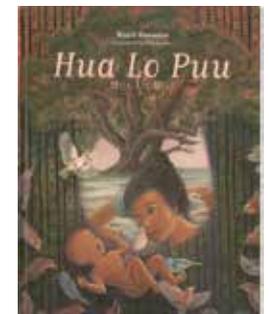
This exquisitely illustrated folktale from Western China tells a charming story of how a rooster saved the people and their harvests. There were six suns in this ancient land, and all but one were shot down with arrows by order of the emperor of China. The rooster coaxed the sun to come out from hiding in a cave, and was rewarded with a crown by the sun itself.



Hua Lo Puu (Hua Lo Poo)

Author: Murti Bunanta
Illustrator: Hardiyono
(2005). Jakarta: Kelompok Pencinta Bacaan Anak
ISBN: 9789799391179

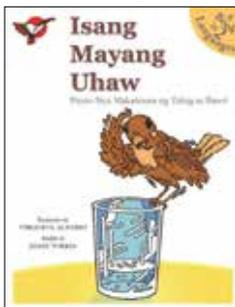
This folklore originates from the Indonesian province of North Maluku. It captures the daily toil of a couple on their farm. With no one to care for their baby, they left it by a tree, alone and crying. Birds come to comfort the child. Much to his parents' sorrow the baby turns into a colourful bird, never to return as their child. (English and Bahasa Indonesia)



Isang Mayang Uhaw (A Thirsty Sparrow)

Author: Virgilio S. Almario
Illustrator: Jimmy Torres
(1993). Quezon City: Adarna House
ISBN: 9789711211752

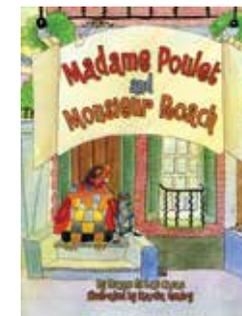
This is an old Philippine fable about a thirsty sparrow in a queue to drink from a glass filled with water. When it found very little water left, the clever sparrow started dropping pebbles in the glass until the water rose high enough for him to drink. A story of cleverness and problem-solving skills, made more exciting by colourful, witty illustrations. (English and Filipino)



Madame Poulet and Monsieur Roach

Author: Dianne de Las Casas
Illustrator: Marita Gentry
(2009). Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican
ISBN: 9781589806863
Call No.: English JP 398.2 DEL

This is the tale about Madame Poulet, a chicken, and Monsieur Roach, a cockroach, who were once the best of friends. But while Madame Poulet foraged for their food, the lazy roach pretended to be sick and partied with his friends. When she discovered how her friend has been taking advantage of her diligence, their friendship ended.



Kenawai Yang Degil (The Stubborn Stork)

Author: Hajah Norain Haji Hussin
Illustrator: Ak Sarikula Pg Hj Othman
(2007). Brunei: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei
ISBN: 9789991704890
Call No.: Malay JP NOR

This fable tells of a proud stork who did not take heed of the warnings from all the animals about the coming tsunami. As all the other animals were running to the hills for protection, the stork perished amidst the ravages of the natural calamity, conveying important lessons to readers, about the dangers of self-indulgent pride.



Merpati dan Gagak (The Dove and the Crow)

Author: Zainun Mustapha
Illustrator: Khairul Azuwan Ishak
(2013). Kuala Lumpur: Institut Terjemahan & Buku Malaysia
ISBN: 9789674301026
Call No.: Malay JP ZAI

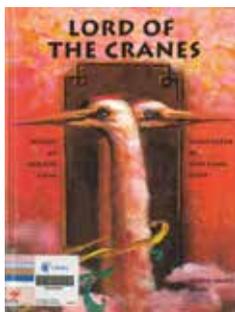
A dove and a crow were once friends, until one unfortunate mistake, while they were searching for food one day. This book is a simple tale which conveys the message of forgiveness, loyalty and friendship.



Lord of the Cranes

Author: Kerstin Chen
Illustrator: Jian Jiang Chen
(2000). New York: North-South Books
ISBN: 9780735811928
Call No.: English JP 398.2 CHE

In this beautifully illustrated tale about virtue and generosity to the less fortunate, the author retells the Chinese folktale about Tian, the Lord of the Cranes, who flies down to a village, disguised as a beggar, to test for himself the goodness of people. An innkeeper, Wang generously fed and welcomed him, and was rewarded by Tian and the cranes with good fortune and fame.



Noong Unang Panahon (Once Upon a Time)

Author: Rafaelita Valera
Illustrator: Ghani Madueño
(2005). Quezon City: Adarna House
ISBN: 9789815082679

This bilingual book puts together, in brilliant colours, three different legends about the origins of the world and humanity according to different Philippine ethno-linguistic groups. They offer interesting insight into a diverse nation and show the significance of the bird in helping bring about life and the world the way we know it. (English and Filipino)



The Love of Two Stars - A Korean Legend

Author: Janie Jaehyun Park
(2005). Toronto: House of Anansi Press
ISBN: 9780888996725
Call No.: English JP 398.2 PAR

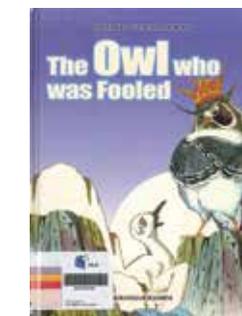
This is an ancient Korean folktale about two stars who are so in love with each other that they neglect their duties as Kyonu, a farmer and Jingnyo, a weaver, and are separated by the king of the starry kingdom. This is a story with resplendent illustrations.



The Owl Who Was Fooled

Author: Khadijah Hashim
(2009). Kuala Lumpur: Institut Terjemahan Negara Malaysia Berhad
ISBN: 9789830684253
Call No.: English J KHA

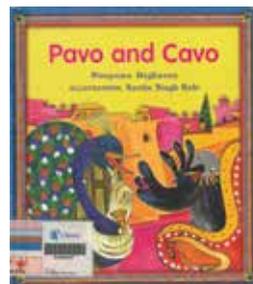
This is a tale about the animosity between owls and crows, the hostilities between the two kingdoms, and the strategies employed by the crows to defeat their enemies' kingdom. The story ends with the tragic burning of the owl's kingdom, and a lesson on the importance of being careful about who to give one's trust.



Pavo and Cavo

Author: Nirupama Raghavan
Illustrator: Kavita Singh Kale
(2006). Chennai: Tulika
ISBN: 9788181463319
Call No.: English JP 398.2 RAG

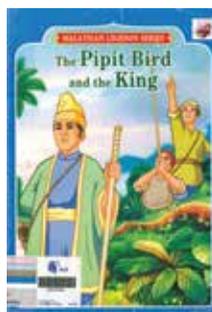
This delightful, vividly illustrated picture book tells of a crow who pretended to be an African peacock so it could enjoy the lavish king peacock's court. This is a hilarious tale of how an outsider outsmarted the powerful king peacock, his queen and the entire court, amusing them with convincing tales from afar.



The Pipit Bird and the King

(2005). Kuala Lumpur: Kohwai & Young
ISBN: 9789833281763
Call No.: English JP 398.2 PIP

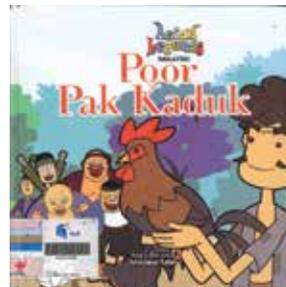
A part of the Malaysian Legends Series, this is the story of a king who was fond of killing birds he spotted by shooting them with his blowpipe, until he met a clever, talking pipit. The little bird imparted lessons which the king took back to the palace and would remember forever.



Poor Pak Kaduk

Author: Mohamad Salmi
(2010). Petaling Jaya, Selangor: MPH
ISBN: 9789675222887
Call No.: English JP 398.2 MOH

With colourful images of life in the countryside in Malaysia, this is the tale of a cockfight-obsessed man named Pak Kaduk and his hardworking, unhappy wife, Mak Kaduk. His obsession cost them their much prized rooster and the only piece of land they have for livelihood, the price of idleness, vice and lack of prudence.



Sang Kerbau dan Burung Pipit (The Buffalo and the Sparrow)

Author: Abdul Aziz Haji Mohamad/Md Noor
Illustrator: Kapli Nayan
(2007). Brunei: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei
ISBN: 9789991704975

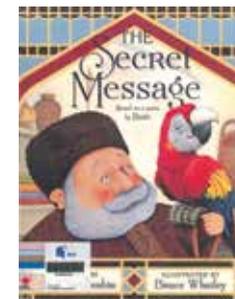
A smart sparrow outwits a proud buffalo in this delightful Malay tale. Children will be reminded of the universal wisdom that true greatness is not defined by one's might and size. (Malay)



The Secret Message

Author: Mina Javaherbin
Illustrator: Bruce Whatley
(2010). New York: Disney Hyperion Books
ISBN: 9781423110446
Call No.: English JP 398.2 JAV

This is a retelling of an ancient Persian poem about a parrot who longs for freedom. It escapes from a merchant's golden cage through wit and the help of friends who pass along a secret message to India. An enchanting tale of yearning for a life of liberty that offers colourful insights into culture, literature and history in the Middle East.



Si Kelabu dan Si Panjang (The Crane and the Tortoise)

Author: Hajah Amcahah Haji Alias
Illustrator: Salleh bin Ahmad
(2003). Brunei: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei
ISBN: 9789991703282

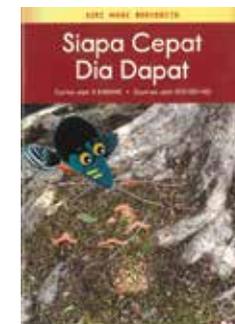
A delightful fable about a proud crane who ignores a tortoise's greetings and warning of danger until, one day, he learns a lesson. This story conveys the importance of being on good terms with others in one's community and the value of humility. (Malay)



Siapa Cepat Dia Dapat (The Early Bird Catches the Worm)

Author: Wan Yiguang
Illustrator: Huang Xiaowen
(2015). Singapore: Pustaka Nasional
ISBN: 9789971778651
Call No.: Malay J WAN

In a variation of the age-old precept "The early bird catches the worm," this simple tale features a little crow named Yaya who loved to wake up late while his family and friends were searching for food. One evening, after scouring for food unsuccessfully, he realised the value of starting the day early and working hard like the rest.



Shu Ye Niao (Leaf Birds)

Author: Bing Bo
Illustrator: Fei Jia
(2009). Shanghai: China Welfare Institute
ISBN: 9787507214390
Call No.: Chinese JP BGB

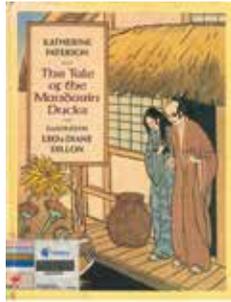
This is a warm, picturesque tale about a mother tree and its beautiful leaves. During the cold autumn season, they turn yellow and dry, but instead of falling to the ground, they magically turn into yellow birds, flying far and wide, seeking to bring comfort and warmth back to cold mother tree.



The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks

Author: Katherine Paterson
Illustrators: Leo Dillon & Diane Dillon
(1990). New York: Lodestar Books
ISBN: 9780525672838
Call No.: English JP 398.2 PAT

A beautifully written and illustrated Japanese folktale about a mandarin duck who was captured and caged by a cruel lord. Two compassionate servants set it free against the lord's command, and are sentenced to death. The duck, grateful to be free and reunited with its mate, returns in disguise and helps them escape to repay them for their kindness.



A Tale of Two Rice Birds

Author: Clare Hodgson Meeker
Illustrator: Christine Lamb
(1994). Seattle: Sasquatch Books
ISBN: 9781570610080
Call No.: English J 398.2 MEE

This touching Thai folktale tells of the true love between two rice birds. Upon tragically losing their children, one vowed never to talk to a man if she is reborn as a human, while the other pledged to follow and continue loving her in the next life. Their love allowed them to recognise each other even after they were reborn.



The Tongue-Cut Sparrow: A Japanese Folktale

Author: M. J. York
Illustrator: J. T. Morrow
(2013). Mankato, Minnesota: Child's World
ISBN: 9781614732228
Call No.: English JP 398.2 YOR

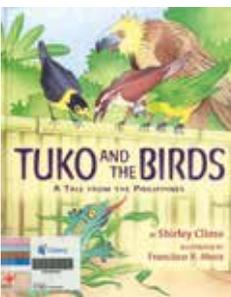
A heartwarming retelling of a Japanese folktale about greed and the importance of friendship. A kind-hearted old man took loving care of a sparrow. One day, his bad-tempered wife cut off the sparrow's tongue causing it to fly away. The old man searched far and wide to apologise, and was rewarded with a gift from the sparrow. His greedy wife visited the sparrow, with a very different result.



Tuko and the Birds: A Tale from the Philippines

Author: Shirley Climo
Illustrator: Francisco X Mora
(2008). New York: Henry Holt
ISBN: 9780805065596
Call No.: English JP 398.2 CLI

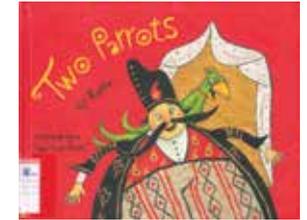
This old Filipino fable is about a noisy gecko called Tuko who decided to stay in a small village where birds' songs filled the air. Tuko's voice replaced the birds' songs by repeatedly shouting his own name, depriving the villagers of sleep. Fortunately, the birds found a way to silence Tuko, restoring the peace, quiet and melodious singing of birds in the village.



Two Parrots

Author: Rashin Kheiriyeh
(2014). New York: North-South Books
ISBN: 9780735841710
Call No.: English JP KHE

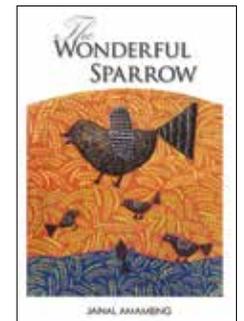
Inspired by a tale from Rumi, the book tells the story of a pampered parrot who longs for freedom despite all the lavish care by his master. Told in artistically bright, lively and colourful illustrations strewn with geometric and floral patterns which took much inspiration from Persian art, Rashin conveys in both profound and ornate ways, the universal message about the value of freedom, as well as the most important things in life such as friendship and gratitude.



The Wonderful Sparrow

Author: Jainal Amambing
(2011). Kuala Lumpur: Picture Book Art
ISBN: 9789675250798

This is a folktale which reminds readers of the virtue of kindness and generosity, and goodness returned. Usan-usan, a poor young farmer, was approached by a hungry sparrow for some grains to eat. The farmer obliged and in the end, was rewarded by the bird who takes him to a palace where he meets his dream princess.



Zao Qi de Niao Er You Cong Chi (The Early Bird Catches the Worm)

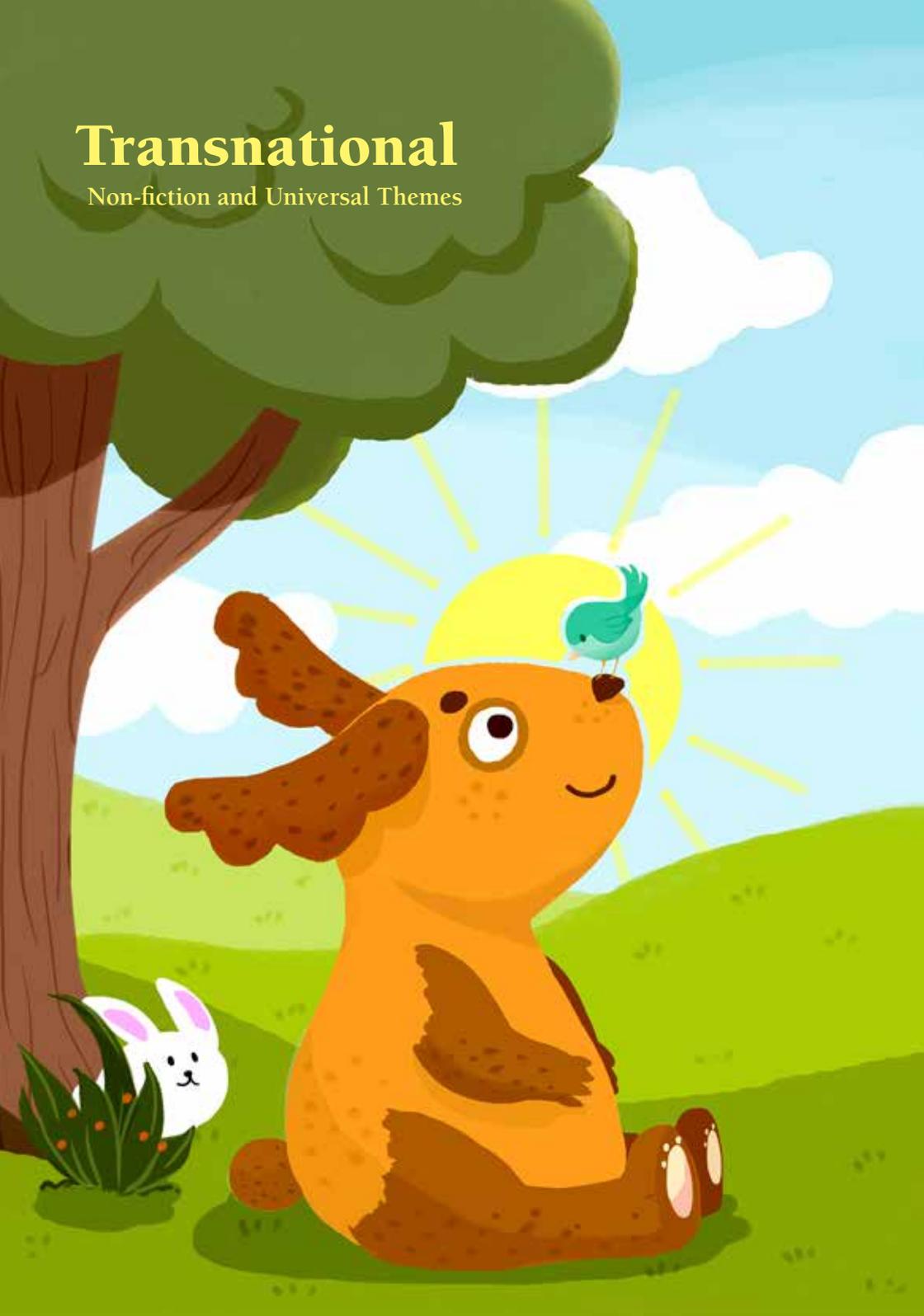
Author: Wan Yiguang
Illustrator: Huang Xiaowen
(2014). Singapore: Pan Asia
ISBN: 9789812223159
Call No.: Chinese J WYG

In a variation of the age-old precept "The early bird catches the worm," this story tells how a little crow who loves to wake up late is moved by his mother's love and patience and decides to wake up early to look for food together with the rest of his family.



Transnational

Non-fiction and Universal Themes

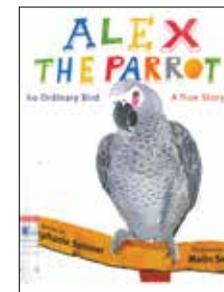


NON-FICTION / CONCEPT BOOKS

Alex the Parrot: No Ordinary Bird

Author: Stephanie Spinner
Illustrator: Meilo So
(2012). New York: Alfred A. Knopf
ISBN: 9780375968464
Call No.: English J 636.6 SPI

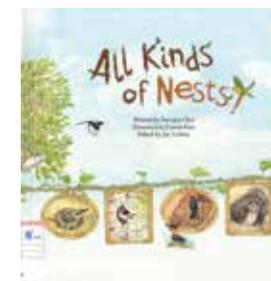
This is the story of Alex, the African grey parrot whose intelligence was discovered by his caretaker, Irene Pepperberg. At a time when the size of the brain was associated positively with an animal's degree of intelligence, Alex's extraordinary intelligence surprised everyone, leading to an important discovery. An informative book with charming illustrations both children and adults will enjoy.



All Kinds of Nests!

Author: Eun-gyu Choi
Illustrator: Ji-yeon Kim
(2012). Big & Small
ISBN: 9781925233605
Call No.: English JP 598.156 CHO

This is a book which bird lovers will certainly find delightful. Eun-gyu Choi brings readers up close to the homes of these winged creatures, and lets us realise that pretty much like us, their homes are built to cater to their way of life. In fact, their nests contain significant imprints of their identity and life.



As the Crow Flies

Author: Sheila Keenan
Illustrator: Kevin Duggan
(2012). New York: Feiwel and Friends
ISBN: 9780312621568
Call No.: English JP KEE

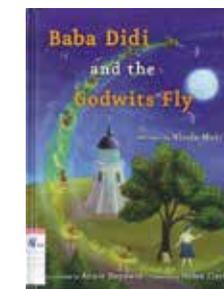
This book takes readers into the crow's everyday life and habits, from the crow's perspective. They tell their story about their daily participation in the most mundane aspects of human life, with images in hues that are seemingly foreboding, yet dynamic and exciting.



Baba Didi and the Godwits Fly

Author: Nicola Muir
Illustrator: Annie Hayward
(2013). New Zealand: New Internationalist Publications
ISBN: 9781780261300
Call No.: English JP MUI

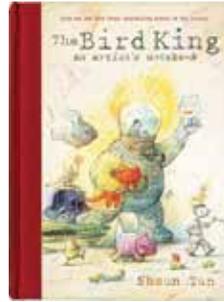
Isabella and her grandmother, Baba Didi, spend a day at the beach, gathering pipis and watching godwits feeding as they prepare to fly off around the world. The book teaches about resilience, and the impact of migration on both birds and humans.



The Bird King: An Artist's Notebook

Author: Shaun Tan
(2013). New York: Arthur A. Levine Books
ISBN: 9780545465137
Call No.: English J 741.64092 TAN

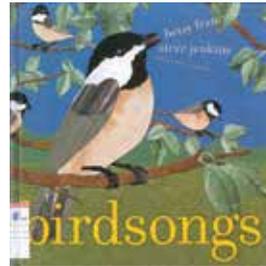
This book is a rich collection of the sketches, scribbles and images from the creative mind of one of the most acclaimed picture book writers of our time. It allows us a peek into his realm of imagination, and will definitely inspire young artists and writers in nurturing their own fanciful world.



Bird Songs

Author: Betsy Franco
Illustrator: Steve Jenkins
(2007). New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books
ISBN: 9780689877773
Call No.: English JP FRA

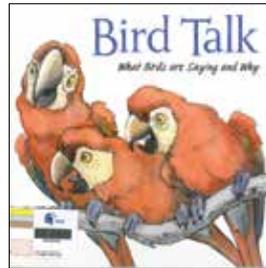
This is a lyrical picture book that revels in those familiar birds seen around neighbourhoods in North America. It brings to life the sounds they make as they go about their daily routine, either alone or in flocks. It is a cheerful tribute to these marvellous winged creatures which seem to weave words into poems through their songs.



Bird Talk: What Birds are Saying and Why

Author: Lita Judge
(2012). New York: Roaring Brook Press
ISBN: 9781596436466
Call No.: English JP 598 JUD

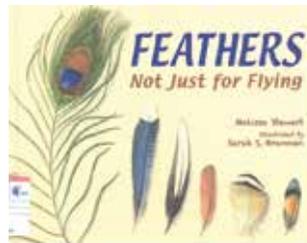
This book celebrates birds: their life, habits and communication with one another. It allows readers a glimpse into their being, their singing, dancing and the many things that they love to do, through stunning illustrations that seem to come alive on each page.



Feathers: Not Just for Flying

Author: Melissa Stewart
Illustrator: Sarah S. Brannen
(2014). Watertown, Massachusetts: Charlesbridge
ISBN: 9781580894302
Call No.: English J 598.147 STE

Using exquisite illustrations, this book features sixteen birds, introducing young bird enthusiasts to the many practical functions of feathers beyond its association with wings and flying. It entices readers to know more about the different ways birds use their feathers.



Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?

Author: Rita Gray
Illustrator: Kenard Pak
(2014). New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
ISBN: 9780544105805
Call No.: English JP 598.156 GRA

With attractive illustrations depicting various kinds of birds making distinct sounds, the book contrasts all of these natural sounds to the stillness of a nesting bird. An informative book that will surely be enjoyed by children and adults alike.



Mama Built a Little Nest

Author: Jennifer Ward
Illustrator: Steve Jenkins
(2014). New York: Beach Lane Books
ISBN: 9781442421165
Call No.: English JP 598.156 WAR

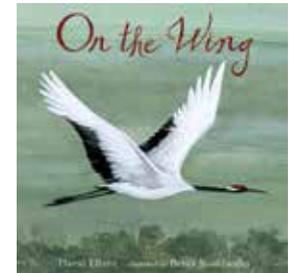
This picture book shares the astonishing world of birds and their unique nest-building styles and practices. From woodpeckers, to penguins, to weaverbirds and flamingos, the illustrations are engaging, enticing readers to want to know more about these homes cleverly made by birds.



On the Wing

Author: David Elliott
Illustrator: Becca Stadtlander
(2014). Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press
ISBN: 9780763653248
Call No.: English JP 811 ELL

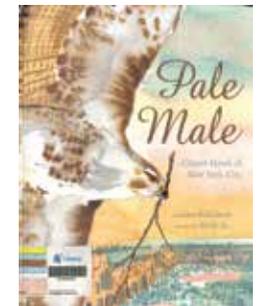
Children will be drawn into pleasurable reading about an array of birds splendidly illustrated, from the hummingbird, to the cute puffin, to the bald eagle. Vivid images of such beautiful winged creatures as the Australian pelican, the Macaw and the albatross will surely delight bird lovers as they flip through the pages of this book.



Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City

Author: Janet Schulman
Illustrator: Meilo So
(2008). New York: Alfred A. Knopf
ISBN: 9780375845581
Call No.: English JP 598.9 SCH

Pale Male refers to the red-tailed hawk which soared over Central Park and came to be recognized as "citizen hawk" of New York city. Interestingly, this extraordinary bird and his mate had a penchant for high rise apartments for their nests. Pale Male's legacy still lives on in New York City, and this book's creative illustrations capture the story of the hawk.



Parrots over Puerto Rico

Authors: Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore
Illustrator: Susan L. Roth
(2013). Puerto Rico: Lee & Low Books
ISBN: 9781620140048
Call No.: English J 598.7 ROT

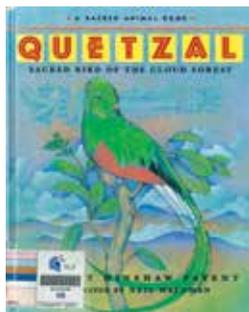
The book about the endangered Puerto Rican parrots juxtaposes the birds' near-extinction to the history of Puerto Rico going as far back as 5000 BCE. With Roth's trademark collages, Roth and Trumbore condense the stories of colonization, the arrival of Columbus, the ruling of Spain, the US-Spain war (read: US-Cuba), the establishment of a commonwealth state and ties it neatly to the Iguacas' (the parrots') loss of habitat.



Quetzal: Sacred Bird of the Cloud Forest

Author: Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
Illustrator: Neil Waldman
(1996). New York: Morrow Junior Books
ISBN: 9780688126629
Call No.: English J 398.2 PAT

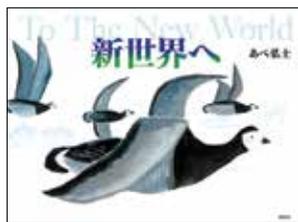
The Quetzal is a bird inhabiting the Central American highland forests. This book looks at this beautiful bird more closely and offers interesting facts, not just about this bird, but also the special, symbolic cultural meaning it holds for the people of Mexico and Central America throughout its history.



Shinsekai e (To the New World)

Author: Hiroshi Abe
(2012). Tokyo: Kaisei Sha
ISBN: 9784032212402

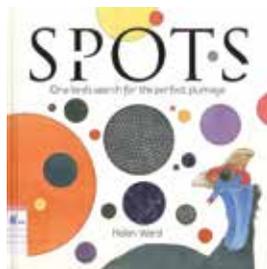
A flock of barnacle geese depart from Svalbard in the arctic Ocean and set off for the South. The flock passes over a changing landscape, and finally reach their destination. The author draws on his experience of the Arctic to depict this amazing journey. This book was included in the IBBY Honour List 2014. (Japanese)



Spots: One Bird's Search for the Perfect Plumage

Author: Helen Ward
(2014). Dorking, Surrey: Templar
ISBN: 9781848779365
Call No.: English JP WAR

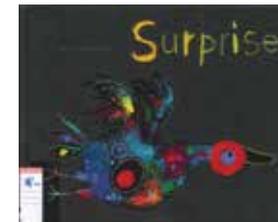
This is the tale of a young guinea-fowl who is troubled by the absence of spots on his body. He sends for spots, but finds no match for him in the boxes of different spots he receives. In the end, he decides to keep all the multi-coloured, multi-shaped as well as multi-sized spots. The book is a beautifully peculiar story that commends the significance of individuality.



Surprise

Author: Mies Van Hout
(2013). New York: Lemniscaat
ISBN: 9781935954347
Call No.: English JP HOU

This book depicts the various stages of parenthood through tender and colourful sketches of birds who do seem to share the same parenting journey as humans.



Tag-Araw ng mga Ibong Hilaga (Summer of the North Birds)

Author: Eugene Y. Evasco
Illustrator: Jomike T. Tejido
(2011). Quezon City: Vibal
ISBN: 9789710150144

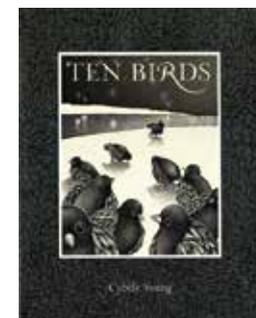
Children can make a difference in changing adult mind-sets and transforming their own living spaces into sustainable environments. This story is a call to action, and a great introduction to Candaba swamps and the many different migratory birds that visit yearly. (English and Filipino)



Ten Birds

Author: Cybele Young
(2011). Toronto: Kids Can Press
ISBN: 9781554535682
Call No.: English JP YOU

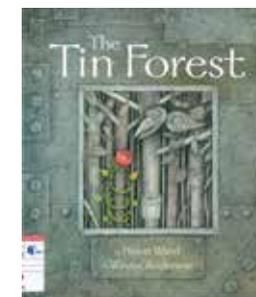
This is a counting book with a humorous story about ten birds who are trying to figure out how they can reach the other side of the river. Each bird managed to reach the other side using its unique strengths. Even the last bird known as "Needs Improvement" surprisingly reached the other side with ease. The book conveys interesting insights about common sense and resourcefulness.



The Tin Forest

Author: Helen Ward
Illustrator: Wayne Anderson
(2003). Dorking, Surrey: Templar
ISBN: 9781848776678
Call No.: English JP WAR

An inspiring story about the power of one's dream to change things and make a difference. This is the tale of an old man who lives alone in the midst of a bleak, desolate and damaged environment. Under his warmth and care, a transformation takes place around him, using the hope he has in him, as well as his imagination.



Yokoso Mori e (Welcome to the Forest)

Author: Yasunari Murakami
(2001). Tokyo: Tokuma Shoten
ISBN: 9784198613440

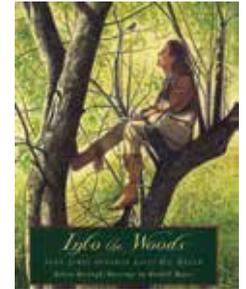
This book is a wonderful ode to nature, and the importance of spending time enjoying it. Through the perspective of a jay watching a family visit a forest, the author shows that nature is home to many different creatures. This book won the author a Special Mention at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 1989. (Japanese)



Into the Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream

Author: Robert Burleigh
Illustrator: Wendell Minor
(2003). New York: Atheneum Books
ISBN: 9781442453371
Call No.: English JP 598 BUR

This is a lyrical biographical picture book which tells the story of John James Audubon, the well-known American naturalist and painter, and his momentous decision to pursue his passion and dream, contrary to his father's prodding that he be a "store owner". It is illustrated in memorable images that reflect some of Audubon's paintings.

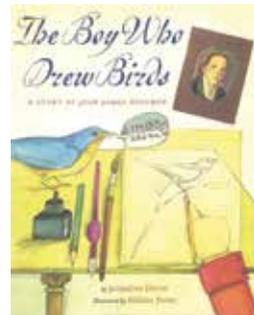


BIRD-INSPIRED BIOGRAPHIES

The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audobon

Author: Jacqueline Davies
Illustrator: Melissa Sweet
(2004). Boston: Houghton Mifflin
ISBN: 9780618243433
Call No.: English JP 598 DAV

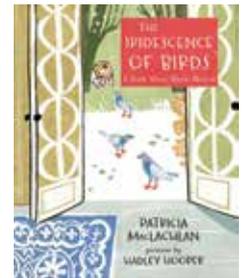
This book reveals how a youthful John James Audubon pioneered a technique essential to our understanding of birds today. Capturing the early passion of America's greatest painter of birds, this story will leave young readers listening intently for the call of birds large and small near their own homes.



The Iridescence of Birds

Author: Patricia MacLachlan
Illustrator: Hadley Hooper
(2014). New York: Roaring Books Press
ISBN: 9781596439481

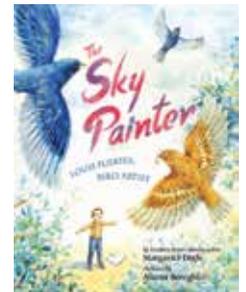
Nominated in the 2014 Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards (CYBILS), elementary/middle-grade nonfiction category, this book is about world-renowned artist, Henri Matisse. Short yet engaging lyrical text describe Matisse's early inspirations. A combination of relief printmaking and digital techniques, the illustrations pulsate with colours the way Henri Matisse's world did when he was a young boy.



The Sky Painter: Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist

Author: Margarita Engle
Illustrator: Aliona Bereghici
(2015). Two Lions
ISBN: 9781477826331

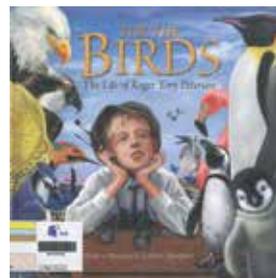
The beautiful words and magnificent illustrations in this picture book capture the life of bird artist Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874–1927), known for his art works which encourage people to bask in the beauty and push for the conservation of winged creatures.



For the Birds: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

Author: Peggy Thomas
Illustrator: Laura Jacques
(2011). Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Calkins Creek
ISBN: 9781590787649
Call No.: English J 598 THO

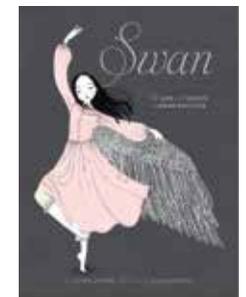
This book gives us a glimpse into the well-known naturalist and environmental advocate, Roger Tory Peterson's early interests in birds as a child, leading towards that definitive moment when he realised his happiness was simply being with these winged creatures, helping them and even actively protecting them.



Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova

Author: Laurel Snyder
Illustrator: Julie Morstad
(2015). San Francisco: Chronicle Books
ISBN: 9781452118901
Call No.: English J 792.802 SNY

Every child will be inspired by the story of the girl in this picture book, who dances like a swan. It is about her journey towards the fulfilment of her dream, becoming one of the premier ballerinas of all time. Anna Pavlova has inspired many dancers to pursue their passion and not be daunted by the challenges that may stand in the way of their dreams.



Project Committee

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Evelyn Sue Wong – Author, Member, AFCC Board of Advisors
Kenneth Quek – AFCC Festival Director

Illustrations

The illustrations in this booklet were specially created by the following students from Raffles Institution.

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DEVELOP

Skills for creating stories with Asian content for children.

PROMOTE

The publication and production of Asian content for children.

PROVIDE

The world with access to Asian content for children.

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