

“Reading the World in Translation: Selecting and Presenting Global Literature for Teens”

YALSA/Global Literature in Libraries Initiative (GLLI) panel at ALA Annual, Chicago, 6/25/17

I. Translated Read-Alikes

Peer Pressure: Teller, Janne. *Nothing*. Translated from the Danish by Martin Aitken. First published in **Denmark**. (Atheneum, 2010). Confronted by their classmate Pierre Anthon’s existential crisis, a seventh-grade class sets out to prove that life *does* have meaning. The students create a “pile of meaning” with increasingly high-stakes items and disastrous results. Fiction. Pair with: Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. (Penguin Classics, 2016, with foreword by Lois Lowry and introduction by Stephen King; Coward, McCann, ©1955).

Life, Restricted: Sharafeddine, Fatima. *The Servant*. Translated from the Arabic by the author. First published in the **United Arab Emirates**. (Groundwood/House of Anansi Press, 2013). Faten must leave her village to work for a wealthy family in Beirut – but she harbors a dream of education that a dangerous romantic friendship might be able to help her achieve. Fiction. Pair with: Badoe, Adwoa. *Between Sisters*. (Groundwood/House of Anansi, 2010). Also, Schlitz, Laura Amy. *The Hired Girl*. (Candlewick, 2015).

Remembering Your Sister: Sarn, Amélie. *I Love I Hate I Miss My Sister*. Translated from the French by Y. Maudet. First published in **France**. (Delacorte, 2014). Their already tempestuous relationship only grows more difficult as Sohane becomes a more devout Muslim while her younger sister Djelila embraces secular life. Then Souhane must cope with Djelila’s tragic death. Fiction. Pair with: Dellaira, Ava. *Love Letters to the Dead*. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2014).

World War I: Spillebeen, Geert. *Age 14*. Translated from the Dutch by Terese Edelstein. First published in **Belgium**. (Houghton Mifflin, 2009). In this fictionalized story of the youngest casualty of World War I, an Irish boy pretends to be his older brother in order to enlist. Fiction. Pair with: Hughes, Dean. *Soldier Boys*. (Atheneum, 2001).

World War II: Prins, Marcel, and Peter Henk Steenhuis. *Hidden Like Anne Frank: 14 True Stories of Survival*. Translated from the Dutch by Laura Watkinson. First published in **the Netherlands**. (Arthur A. Levine/ Scholastic, 2014). Though Anne Frank was the most famous young person hiding from the Nazis, she was far from the only one, as these real-life stories attest. Nonfiction. Pair with: Toll, Nelly S. *Behind The Secret Window: A Memoir of A Hidden Childhood During World War Two*. (Puffin, 2003).

Road Trips: Herrndorf, Wolfgang. *Why We Took the Car*. Translated from the German by Tim Mohr. First published in **Germany**. (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2014). Mike and Tschick, unlikely friends who are unpopular for different reasons, set out on a road trip to prove that they, too, can be interesting. Fiction. Pair with: Dean, Carolee. *Take Me There*. (Simon Pulse, 2010). For more road trip books from other countries see Kelly Jensen’s Book Riot June 5, 2017 blog post. “What’s Up in YA?”: <http://link.bookriot.com/view/571e6e41498edc56065d84295svbn.c9l/3e35688a>.

Middle East Memoirs: Zenatti, Valérie. *When I Was a Soldier*. Translated from the French by Adriana Hunter. First published in **France**. (Bloomsbury, 2005). A young Israeli’s two years of national service in the Army are fraught with doubt about her country and her ability to cope. Nonfiction. Pair with: Barakat, Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007).

Medieval Adventure: Thal, Lilli. *Mimus*. Translated from the German by John Brownjohn. First published in **Germany**. (Annick, 2005). Prince Florin is enslaved by the court jester, Mimus, and despairs of freeing his father and regaining the kingdom...but then he sees his chance. Fiction. Pair with: Gidwitz, Adam. *The Inquisitor’s Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*, illuminated by Hatem Aly. (Dutton, 2016). Also, Konigsburg, E.L. *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver* (Atheneum, 2001, ©1973); Temple, Frances, *The*

Ramsay Scallop (HarperCollins, 1994); and Karen Cushman's *The Midwife's Apprentice* (Clarion, 1995, ©1991) and *Catherine Called Birdy* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012, ©1994).

Magical Realism: Acioli, Socorro. *The Head of the Saint*. Translated from the Portuguese by Daniel Hahn. First published in **Brazil**. (Delacorte, 2016). Samuel, homeless, lives in the hollow head of a statue of Saint Anthony. Hearing the prayers of the townspeople, he begins to answer them – with surprising results! Fiction. Pair with: McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *Summer of the Mariposas*. (Tu Books, 2012).

Games Gone Bad: Poznanski, Ursula. *Erebos. It's a Game. It Watches You*. Translated from the German by Judith Pattinson. First published in **Germany**. (Annick, 2012). A thriller in which the game manipulates the players with deadly intent. Fiction. Pair with: Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*. (Broadway, 2011).

Dystopias: Mourlevat, Jean-Claude. *Winter's End*. Translated from the French by Anthea Bell. First published in **France**. (Candlewick, 2009). A gripping dystopia in which teen friends join the resistance against the government that murdered their parents. Fiction. Pair with: Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. (Scholastic, 2008). Also, Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*. (Katherine Tegen Books, 2011).

Feminist Fantasy: Turtschaninoff, Maria. *Maresi: The Red Abbey Chronicles*. Translated from the Finnish by Annie Prime. First published in **Finland**. Maresi feels safe living in the Red Abbey, a haven for abused women and girls. But when new fugitive Jai arrives, Maresi realizes that it's time to confront the world outside. Fiction. Pair with: Le Guin, Ursula K. *Tehanu*, Earthsea cycle #4, (Atheneum, 2012, with new author afterword; ©1990).

Paranormal: Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. *The Prince of Mist*. Translated from the Spanish by Lucia Graves. First published in **Spain**. (Little Brown, 2010). What should have been a peaceful seaside cottage turns out to be anything but, as Max, his older sister, Alicia, and their new friend, Roland, contend with a malevolent presence. Fiction. Pair with: Rosenfield, Kat. *Inland*. (Dutton, 2014).

II. Resources

Bird, Elizabeth. (2017, March 31). Outlandish: Braving New Perspectives Through Books in Translation. *School Library Journal*. <http://www.slj.com/2017/03/feature-articles/outlandish-braving-new-perspectives-through-books-in-translation/#> SLJ April 2017 cover story. Don't miss the link to "A World Of Resources" <http://www.slj.com/2017/03/feature-articles/outlandish-braving-new-perspectives-through-books-in-translation/#RS> or the follow-up article, "Even More Outlandish: Further Thoughts On the Role of Translation and Children's Literature" <http://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2017/04/03/even-more-outlandish-further-thoughts-on-the-role-of-translation-and-childrens-literature/#>

Goldsmith, Annette Y. (2017, March 14). Going Global: Resources for International YA Literature. [The Hub]. <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2017/03/14/going-global-resources-international-ya-literature/>

Goldsmith, Annette Y., Heras, Theo, & Corapi, Susan. (Eds.) (2016). *Reading the World's Stories: An Annotated Bibliography of International Youth Literature* (Bridges to Understanding). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. 5th volume in reference series. Includes about 800 annotated entries and a substantial resources section.

Zbrizher, Jenny. (2017, January 11). Reading across borders: Translated YA titles for the New Year. [The Hub]. <http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2017/01/11/reading-across-borders-translated-ya-titles-new-year/> - 4 tempting titles!

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