



BELGIUM-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: Onder mijn huid **AUTHOR:** Marlies Slegers **PUBLICATION:** Luitingh-Sijthoff B.V., 2015

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

The 16-year-old Coco is totally in love with Nick, a boy from school. They start chatting with each other. Nick always gives her a lot of compliments and Coco feels great. She loves him and he loves her. Suddenly he sends her an erotic picture of himself and asks her to do the same. They promise each other to immediately delete the pictures.

Later in the story Coco caught him while showing the pictures to his friends at school. Coco immediately breaks up with him. Shortly after that, she's threatened by an anonymous person. The person blackmails Coco with an explicit picture of her. Coco tries her best to find out who this anonymous person is but then the picture goes online and everyone in school has seen it.... Coco's life turns into a hell.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

Coco: she cries, she's angry, she sends angry messages to Nick, she tells her best friend about it, at school she tries to be strong, she's very worried and hardly sleeps, she's stressed, she tries to find out who the anonymous person is, at a certain moment she even considers suicide in the end she finally tells her parents about it and she goes to a therapist.

Describe different emotions people felt.

Coco: angry, ashamed, helpless, guilty, miserable,...

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

The book tells a very recognizable and realistic story. Sexting is a hot topic in teenage culture nowadays. This book is adequate to make youngsters aware of the possible consequences of sexting. It's perfect to use in secondary schools.



BULGARIA-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: Wild Carnations **AUTHOR:** Atanas Zvezdinov **PUBLICATION:** 1982, Bulgarian Youth publishing House

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

The main focus is on the young teenagers' problems.

The main character is Yasen – an intelligent, caring seventh-grader with various interests. He has his own “lab” in a shed in their family yard. This is where he makes his experiments and technical models. He is the best student and a respected leader in all free activities. At the summer camp he falls in love for the first time with a girl called Lyubka and the writer presents the development of his feelings. After starting school they keep on meeting and his friends are well-disposed to it. Lyubka's father does not accept her relationship and Yasen's mother is not so enthusiastic about the contact of her son with a girl. Only his grandma and an older neighbour understand him.

George used to be Yasen's close friend. He is constantly being compared to Yasen by his mum. George realizes he does not have such qualities and abilities as Yasen and starts to envy him. Then he undertakes some steps to ruin Yasen's reputation. He gives the idea to cheat in the Maths test and reports the teacher that it is one's else fault. He talks to Yasen's friends, including Lyubka, that Yasen does not deserve their friendship. He also makes some younger students to write Yasen and Lyubka's names on the school fence dozens of times to reveal their relationship to all teachers and students. Finally, feeling his helplessness, George engages two other boys and they beat Yasen in the street.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

Yasen is supported by his classmates but more and more questions about the values in life appear to him. His dad is a journalist and he always defends the truth. This is what Yasen wants, too.



The end of the school year comes and Yasen prepares to apply to a high school where he hopes to meet new friends. His parents move to another house and he says goodbye to the world of his childhood.

Describe different emotions people felt.

It is an interesting book because the writer shows skillfully the growth of the teenager and the change of his attitudes towards his family, friends, classmates, teachers. Now he can understand the values in life more deeply. It creates feelings of understanding, sympathy and excitement. It made us think about our own relationships.

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

We chose this novel because it presents an interesting story full of many events and incidents. It teaches us to keep and take care of our friends, to make things together and not to compete all the time.

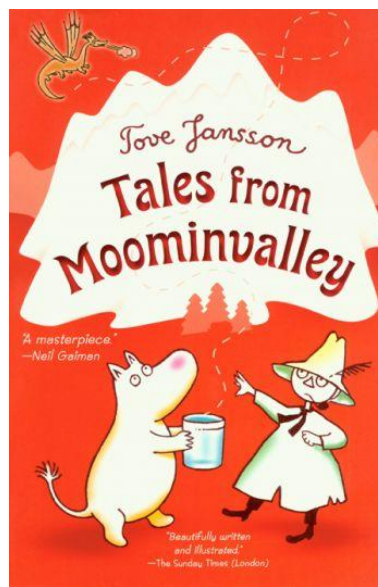
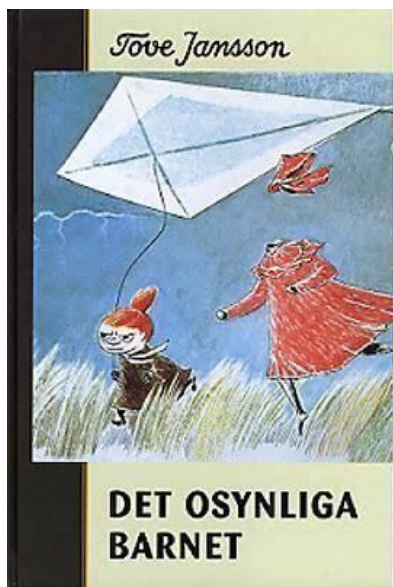


FINLAND-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: Tales from Moominvalley/The Invisible Child (Det osynliga barnet)

AUTHOR: Tove Jansson

PUBLICATION: First published in Swedish by Gebers in 1962



TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

Tales of Moominvalley is a collection of nine short stories, of which *The Invisible Child* is the longest one. The main character of the story, a girl called *Ninni*, has become invisible because she has been badly treated by her guardian who terrifies her. When Ninni is brought to be taken care of by the Moomin family she is totally invisible, but with the help of the Moomin family's love and care she little by little becomes more visible and gains more confidence.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

All nine short stories mainly deal with characters not fitting in with society.



Ninni, *the Invisible Child*, is very shy and insecure because she has been brought up by a very sarcastic aunt who has never let her play or be a carefree child. When she enters the Moomin house she experiences love and respect for the first time in her life. Moominmamma is a very warm-hearted character who makes sure everyone feels welcome and special in her company. Moominpappa, Moomintroll and the other characters accept Ninni as the person she is and gradually Ninni feels more comfortable until she finally becomes totally visible again.

Describe different emotions people felt.

Ninni was very shy, serious and lonely in the beginning of the story but felt more confident all the time until the strong feeling of anger in the end of the story made her visible again. Or as Little My pointed it out very precisely: "She can't get angry, that's what's wrong with her. You'll never have a face of your own until you've learnt to fight."

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much? For Swedish-speaking Finns the most-loved author is without doubt Tove Jansson, the creator of the Moomin Valley and all the characters within. The nine stories are mainly about small creatures, even nameless ones, trying to find happiness and their own strength. The Moomin characters are loved by everyone, both young and old.



GERMANY-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: Ich blogg dich weg **AUTHOR:** Agnes Hammer **PUBLICATION:** Loewe Verlag; 2013

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

The main character is Julie, a pretty and popular girl, who is a member of the school's band. After she decides to take part in the school party with her band, she is receiving ugly mails, her facebook profile is faked and she is cyber-bullied. Finally she also is threatened to be violated.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

First of all Julie is just wondering about things in her daily life which are changing, but as the situation is getting worse and worse she feels sad, ill, horrible and panic. Her personality is changing totally from a self confident teenager to a frightened and psychologically damaged person. Of course there are mates or friends who'd like to help her, but the bullying is that strong, that normal support can't be successful.

Describe different emotions people felt.

Initially a pretty confident young woman, you feel with each of their chapters as Julie breaks. The bullying attacks destroy her personality, let her feel doubts and make the talented singer a frightened girl. The psyche suffers greatly from the emotional stress and Julie is plagued even fearsome nightmares. You can imagine how a person is made systematically broken and what happens with her personality. Agnes Hammer describes the subject alarmingly realistic and meets its readers not only close, but just under the skin.

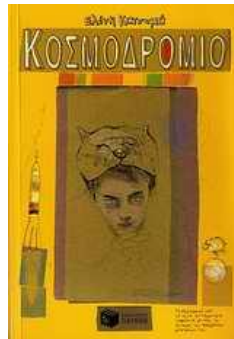
Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

"Ich blogg dich weg" by Agnes Hammer is a book for teenagers from 13 to 16 years and it seems to be a perfect book which should be read at school/in classes to deal with the dangerous topic of cyberbullying. The author here is not limited to the perspective of the victim. It also shows what is going on in the minds of the perpetrators and how to deal with it outsiders. Agnes Hammer has discussed in her book intensively with cyberbullying and done a great educational work.





GREECE-BOOK REVIEWS



TITLE: KOSMODROMIO **AUTHOR:** Helen Katsama **PUBLICATION:** Pataki Publishers

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face? Kosmodromio is the name of the space centre of Russia, where space rockets are launched from, in search of new worlds. In the book, our encounter with teenagers of the world is a reason for us to know our own world better. 23 teenagers of our planet narrate their own story and share the reason why they spent sleepless nights.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence? There is a lot of sorrow and despair. However, they cope well. They adapt. They survive. In the short story about bullying, the victimised girl realises that her bully has a sensitive side which is the reason of his behaviour and she fights back. She makes him feel embarrassed for his personal failures and he stops torturing her.

Describe different emotions people felt. Fear, agony, anger, depression, hatred, embarrassment, loneliness, despair, but also understanding, solidarity, self-confidence, relief, real love, humanity and happiness.

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

It is a book of emotions, however based on newspaper and internet facts the writer collected for years, which inspired her to write very realistic short stories. It contains a powerful bullying story but, more than that, it gives us a picture of contemporary problems of young people around the world. This makes us realise how different our realities are but also how similar the feelings we experience can be. The book makes us feel compassion, sympathy, empathy, and many more and strong feelings, which cannot be put into words.



TITLE: “The person who accepted everything” **AUTHOR:** A. Dendrinis

The writer describes the life of Chris, nicknamed Dovas, a traumatized child who grew into a very sensitive, religious man. He seemed to be exploited by his wife Sophia who left him soon after their wedding with a man she had an affair a lot while before. A year later she came to Dovas to ask for shelter for her, her unborn child and her partner Theodor. Dovas not only accepted them but also suffered quietly the gossip of their small society. Theodor proved brutal to Sophia and also self-detrimental since he had a fatal accident. Dovas even paid for the hospital and burial, mortgaging his house. He remained loyal to Sophia and her child.

The theme of social discrimination against women is obvious in the short story. Another theme quietly running the background of the whole plot is the belief that kindness wins over social discrimination and exploitation. It is a message difficult to get when you are victimized in a school environment, however, it’s good to remember that the apparent victim was a winner in life challenges.



ITALY-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: Il bullo innamorato **AUTHOR:** Carmen Scarpelli **PUBLICATION:** 2014 Italy La Spiga Edizioni

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face? How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

The novel's protagonist is a teenager, a bully, and many other boys and girls. During their adolescence, the characters weave their lives into one story outlining the doubts, uncertainties, passions and contradictions typical of this age. The love for the sport, practiced with perseverance, hard work and discipline, and the establishment of healthy relationships with peers allow the main character to change his life. Just love can transform and save those who had chosen the arrogance as a lifestyle.

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

In our opinion, this novel is recommended to all teenagers because it describes situations typical of our age and make us reflect on our actions. The enigmatic title attracts the reader's curiosity and conceals an unexpected plot





POLAND-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: *Kamienie na szaniec* (Stones for the Rampart) **AUTHOR:** Aleksander Kamiński
PUBLICATION: July 1943

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

The main characters: Alek (Maciej Aleksy Dawidowski), Zośka (Tadeusz Zawadzki) and Rudy (Jan Bytnar). They fought in Second World War.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

The characters were fighting, because they rescued citizens. They helped all people: mothers with babies, children, teenagers etc. The book is about armed resistance carried out by the Polish underground scout movement called the Grey Ranks. The book shows atrocities of the war in a way you can't stop thinking about it. Beside of the physical violence one of the heroes, Alek, is a victim of the emotional abuse as his dad was arrested by the Nazis.

Describe different emotions people felt.

They felt fear of losing life, hope. They didn't give up. They were constantly under pressure.

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

I really like this Polish book. I think this is perfect book with the theme of violence, hope and hard situation in history of Poland. It was adapted into two films.



ROMANIA-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: A BIRD ON THE WIRE AUTHOR: IOANA NICOLAIE PUBLICATION: POLIROM

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

The novel **A bird on the wire** tells the story of a girl from the countryside, Sabina, who comes to Bucharest. Without being supported by her parents (who barely managed to get by), without having someone close, she has to succeed in Bucharest in the transition years, in order to get away from the destiny she would have had by staying in her village.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

Alongside the miserable life from her village, where everyone knows everything about the others and where freedom and individuality is a fantasy, living with parents also means bearing her father's outrageous attitude as he thinks that Sabina is not his child, but the result of Sabina's mother love story before marriage. Sabina tries to escape this commonplace and resentful environment at all costs, even enduring the miseries of Bucharest in the 1990s.

Describe different emotions people felt.

Sabina desperately seeks solutions to get by. Thus, she develops small businesses such as selling food in her room, working for a radio station, she accepts the position of living mannequin in a fashion shop etc. The social background, with all the things that period involved, lead to difficult life experiences for the young, which are unbelievable. Although it was meant to be a novel of the first love, the love for Eman is overshadowed. Eman saves her from rape and he helps her to live. Everything ends when Sabina finds out she is lied to and cheated on. Getting older, enduring unbearable hardships and disappointments, Sabina learns to get rid of naivety.

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

The novel should be read by those who haven't lived or who don't remember the period after the revolution that took place in 1989. It will teach them more about life and the human condition in troubled times.



SPAIN-BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: Los supervivientes **AUTHOR:** Jimina Sabadú

PUBLICATION: 2015

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

The book is divided in three parts:

The old students who already work and have families and are not longer at school. They are planning to celebrate a anniversary party which takes part at the end of the book. One of them was bullied when he was at school.

The present students of the private school. One of them is being bullied, and some of them have brothers or sisters in the previous group.

Finally we have the teachers divided into two categories: those who support students and others who think that bullying is just a joke.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

- The bullied: Miguel. Going to school is Hell for him. He hides in the toilets every break time.
- Teachers: María Victoria represents the young generation trying to help students. Marcial is almost retired and hasn't changed his teaching methods since he started, but he's close to students too.
- Other students: Aida. Is Miguel's only friend and tries to help, even going out with him
- Old students (bullied): Juli. He tries to forget when he was bullied at school though he's now afraid of meeting his old mates at the party they're organising.
- Old students (bully): Xana. He was the bully in the previous generation.

Describe different emotions people felt.

- Indifference: Some teachers don't care what is going on in school. Xana and his mates (previous generation) don't seem to be worried about other students feelings neither.
- Pity: Marcial feels pity for the students and their relationships.
- Terror: For Miguel school is like torture. He hates it.



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- Frustration: Juli feels he is “bullied” even as an adult and gets frustrated when his ex-mates ignore him

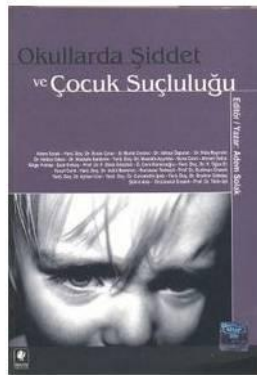
Why did you choose this film to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

- The author is very young and she received a prize recently.
- It is interesting that the book reflects that bullying is not only a current problem, although in the old times it was not recognized as bullying, but as children’s jokes.
- The book shows that some people’s behaviour don’t change never. When they are adults, they continue bullying other adults.



TURKEY-BOOK REVIEWS

ITLE:Violence at schools and Juvenile Delinquency **AUTHOR:**Adem Solak



PUBLICATION: 06.06.02007

TYPE OF BOOK AND BASIC PLOT: Which are the main characters in the story? Which are the situations they face?

It is a psycholological and educational book. As it isn't like a story or novel, there is no main character. The book talks about the facts about bullying.

How do the different characters deal with the issues of bullying, isolation, discrimination or violence?

Nowadays, every kid suffer from bullying in a way at home, school or somewhere else. In this book the author empkasizes that in modern and democratic countries, bullying must be dealt with as soon as possible whatever it costs in order to have a better and healthy society, because the students are our next generation and we must do our best for them.

Describe different emotions people felt.

When you read the book about bullying everywhere then you feel Angry, but when it comes to the solution part and what can be done, then you get impatient and become hopeful.

Why did you choose this book to represent your country? What made you like it so much?

The topic of our Project is 'Bullying at Our Schools' and the book talks about the facts of bullying in a way at home, school or somewhere else. Nowadays we see violence in every part



of our daily life; on TVs, news, at our family life, among our friendships and the worst of all, at schools which are educational places and where we form our future. The book touches especially on this part and gives much importance to it. Therefore, after defining the problem, it looks for the solution for bullying and shows us the ways of it.