Hello, Dear Enemy!
Picture Books for Peace and Humanity

An Exhibit on Loan from the International Youth Library (Munich, Germany)

Aug. 27 – Nov. 16, 2018
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
University of Connecticut
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War and violence, impenetrable walls and borders will persist for as long as national power struggles, ideologies, and fanaticism of all kinds threaten human coexistence. Today, we are still a long way away from the “culture of peace” that UNESCO has advocated for years. The news is filled with images of violence, destruction, poverty, suffering, and death. People from regions torn by war and crisis seek refuge in Germany and around the world, often burdened by traumatic experiences. They become the neighbors of people who grow up in comfort and security. Children are confronted with war, hostility, ostracism, and displacement. Some are victims, while others may not be directly affected, but still have many questions.

Picture books have engaged closely with these themes through literature and graphic art. Though they may not be able to answer every question, they can provide food for thought and stimulate discussion. This exhibit offers an international selection of impressive, original picture books on the topics of conflict, peace, and humanity. Among them are a few classics of children’s literature, but the majority of the titles were published in the last fifteen years. Often in quiet tones, they tell stories about everyday life in conflict zones, about suppression, flight, and persecution, about borders that turn people away, about threats and injuries. They reveal the sources of war and violence, such as xenophobia, prejudice, and the abuse of power. At the same time, many of them ultimately open the door to a better future in which dividing walls topple, enemies become reconciled, and war gives way to peace. Power struggles and escalating conflicts can be overcome when people come together, and dialogue can triumph over physical violence. Many of these books communicate the message that openness, curiosity, and empathy are prerequisites for a more peaceful and humane coexistence between cultures and peoples.

Simple stories, together with abstract, funny, comic book-like, naïve, or colorful illustrations, set the reality of picture books at a remove from the real world. This helps children encounter existential problems, fears, and threats in a manner that is not overly disturbing. The picture books avoid pathos as well as shocking directness. Rather, many of them employ literary forms such as the animal parable, or characteristic stylistic elements of picture-book illustration such as humor, facial expression, gesture, exaggeration, and simplification. This gives rise to a balance between the gravity of the theme and what is appropriate for children. Only those picture books that target young adults contain more complex visual concepts. A few of these can be seen in the exhibit.
This is a new version of an exhibit that has successfully travelled the world since 1998. In that year, the International Youth Library first displayed under the title “Hello, Dear Enemy!” a selection of 41 picture books from 19 countries at the IBBY (International Board of Books for Young People) Congress in New Delhi that was devoted to the theme “Peace and Tolerance.” Between 1999 and 2002, this selection could be seen in 50 locations in Japan. In 2001 and 2006, it was expanded and reworked and has since traveled to schools, libraries, and cultural institutions in Germany, Europe, the US, and Latin America.

The exhibit you see today was once again updated in 2014. Almost two thirds of the books were replaced by more recent publications. I hope that the exhibit helps impart to children and young people values grounded in respect for life, nonviolence, and humanity, and that it thereby strengthens peace in the world. For peace cannot be taken for granted, but rather, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, it “must be dared.”

**Dr. Christiane Raabe**
*Director of the*
**International Youth Library**
*November, 2014*

The Dodd Center is proud to host the exhibit, “Hello, Dear Enemy!” as part of our commitment to building a culture of human rights here at UConn, in Connecticut, and around the world. Dedicated to preserving and extending the legacy of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd’s service at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, our center is a fitting host for this exhibit created by the International Youth Library in Munich, itself established in response to the horrors of the Nazi regime. Like Tom Dodd, IYL founder Jella Lehman was dedicated to building a more just and humane world in the wake of the Second World War. Accountability for the Nazi leadership could only be the beginning, however, and the IYL’s commitment to working with young people in Germany to plant the seeds of peace, democracy, and justice is a critical lesson for all of us today who are working to make real the post-war promise of universal human rights.

The books included in “Hello, Dear Enemy!”, published over the past 40 years in some 20 different countries, could not be more relevant for us here today, at this moment. These books present stories and characters that grapple with the traumas of war and displacement, violence and oppression, all with sensitivity, insight, and—in most cases—hope. The selection of picture books here represents the range of strategies used by authors and illustrators to try to communicate these difficult, often unimaginable circumstances to young people, most of whom will thankfully not have direct experience with such horrors. In doing so, these artists have opened up a pathway to empathy and perhaps solidarity, upon which a future of peace and justice might be built.

I am deeply grateful to the International Youth Library, particularly Dr. Christiane Raabe and Maria Weber, for their generous loan of this exhibit. I would also like to thank Nana Amos for her effort in coordinating and Michael Ballard for installing the exhibit, Dr. Elliott Schreiber of Vassar College for his support, advice, and delivery of the exhibit, Mr. Daniel Lasecki of Vassar College Publications for the design of this brochure, as well as Susan Raab for introducing me to the wonderful work of the IYL.

**Dr. Glenn Mitoma**
*Director of the*
**Thomas J. Dodd Research Center**
*August, 2018*
Brøgger, Lilian (illustrations) and Bjørn Arild Ersland (text). *Dagen vi drømte om.* (The Day that We Dreamed of.) Oslo: Cappelen Damm, 2013. Language: Norwegian.


Dubois, Claude K. (illustrations) and Fatima Sharafeddine (text). *Chez moi, c’est la guerre.* (Where I Am, There’s War.) Namur: Mijade, 2008. Language: French.


Guicciardini, Desideria (illustrations) and Cosetta Zanotti (text). *Fu’ad e Jamila.* (Fu’ad and Jamila.) Roma: Ed. Lapis, 2013. Language: Italian.
**Power Struggles and the Origin and Escalation of Violence**


**Schärer, Kathrin** (illustrations/text). *So war das! Nein, sol! Nein, sol! (It Was Like That! No, Like This! No, Like This!)* Zürich: Atlantis, 2007. Language: German.


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**Kōshirō Hata,** from *Yurayurabashi no ue de. (On the Seesaw Bridge)* by Yūichi Kimura. Fukuinkan Shoten: Tokyo, Japan, 2003
Prejudices, Ostracism, and Imagined Enemies


Friese, Julia (illustrations) and Christian Duda (text). Alle seine Entlein. (All His Ducklings.) Zürich: Bajazzo, 2007. Language: German.


Peaceful Utopias and Anti-War Books

Blake, Quentin (illustrations/text).
Un bateau dans le ciel.
Language: French.
London: Jonathan Cape, 2000.)

Bloch, Serge (illustrations) and Davide Cali (text).
L’ennemi.
Language: French.
(English edition: The Enemy.

Dedieu, Thierry (illustrations) and Gilles Baum (text).
Le baron bleu. (The Blue Baron.)
Language: French.

Danowski, Paula (illustrations) and Paula Carbalieira (text).
El principio.
Language: Spanish.
(English edition: The Beginning.
Pontevedra: Kalandraka, 2012.)

Elzbieta (illustrations/text).
Flon Flon & Musette.
Language: French.

Foreman, Michael (illustrations) and Janet Charters (text).
The General.

Lawson, Robert (illustrations) and Munro Leaf (text).
The Story of Ferdinand.

McKee, David (illustrations/text).
The Conquerors.
Language: English.

Monroy, Manuel (illustrations), Marcelo Birmajer (text) and Marta Villegas (original idea).
El nombre de la ballesta. (The Name of the Whale.)
Language: Spanish.

Pef (illustrations), Gianni Rodari (text) and Genevieve Ferrier (coloring).
La guerra delle campane. (The War of the Bells.)
Language: Italian.

Ramos, Mario (illustrations/text).
Le petit soldat qui cherchait la guerre.
(English edition: The Little Soldier Who Went Looking for the War.)
Language: French.

Steineke, Inge (illustrations) and Gudrun Pausewang (text).
Guten Tag, lieber Feind! (Hello, Dear Enemy!)
Language: German.

Tallec, Olivier (illustrations).
New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2012.)

Tashima, Seizō (illustrations/text).
Boku no koe ga kikoemasuka.
Language: Japanese.

Trier, Walter (illustrations), Erich Kästner (text) and Jella Lepman (idea).
Die Konferenz der Tiere. (The Conference of the Animals.)
Language: German.

Vaugelade, Anaïs (illustrations/text).
La guerre. (The War.)
Language: French.
Other Sites for the U.S. Traveling Exhibition:
Fall 2017: Worlds of Words, the University of Arizona
Spring 2018: Vassar College
Winter 2019: Western Washington University

The International Youth Library is the world’s largest library for international children’s and youth literature. Founded in 1949 by Jella Lepman, it has grown to become the internationally recognized center for children’s and youth literature.