

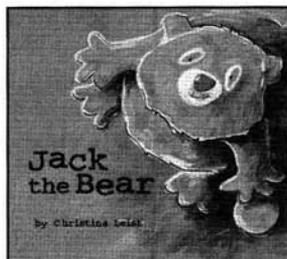


**PAULINA P. (FOR PETERSEN)**  
*Written and illustrated by*  
**Lisa Cinar**

*"In all probability, the charming, smart, and energetic Paulina P. will promptly become the preferred picture book of your pint-sized progeny."*

— *Starred Review, Q & Q*

ISBN: 978-1-897476-09-3



**JACK THE BEAR**  
*Written and illustrated by*  
**Christina Leist**

*"In this charming picture book, Jack the Bear contributes to world peace through the simple gesture of a smile. This special book should be in every home where young children and youthful spirits reside."*

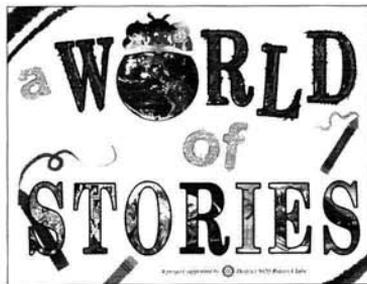
— *Christianne Hayward,*  
*Lyceum of Literature and Art*

ISBN: 978-1-894965-97-2

**SIMPLY READ BOOKS**  
[www.simplyreadbooks.com](http://www.simplyreadbooks.com)

showing the honesty in Lily Jean's realization of the consequences of her behaviour, as well as the hope that she has in not losing her two new friends.

Ken Kilback



**A World of Stories**

Various authors and illustrators  
Gumboot Books, 2008

978-0-9784351-1-0 (pb) \$25.00  
for preschool to Grade 3

*Short Stories – Poetry – Special Days*

This wonderful collection of stories and poems celebrate 18 internationally-recognized special days, from International Literacy Day to International Left-Handers Day. Though the authors and illustrators are from many different countries around the world, eight authors and seven illustrators are from Canada.

Kari-Lynn Winters' "Rhyme or Reason" is a fun, rhythmic poem in which a teacher is trying to teach a child to rhyme. The child has trouble, always picking words that – though possible in the context – don't actually rhyme. Scot Ritchie's illustrations are also a lot of fun, using borders around each scene to give clues as to the right answer, which children will love calling out.

Dan Bar-el's "Long John" is a personal favourite. Long John Silver (née Silverman) appears on a live talk show to promote Talk Like a Pirate Day. Having been born with a birthmark that looks like an eye patch, Long John talks about his troubled childhood, always burying his mother's jewelry in the sandbox, drawing Xs on all the maps in Geography, and having a love for tattoos in Art class. The story comes with a glossary of pirate terms and film strips at the edges of the pages showing

scenes from movie clips; and of course, the numbering of the pages here has to read, "Here be page 23".

"The Labyrinth" is illustrator Izabela Bzymek's wordless story about a boy's response to bullying. Pushed into a land of fantasy, a young boy starts to imagine himself a knight. As he grows more confident, he vanquishes an evil monster and a dragon before climbing back up into the real world to stand up to a bully who is picking on another child. The illustrations are fabulous – bright and bold in some places and playing with shadows and darkness in others.

The stories range in complexity and so this book will interest children in different ways over several years as they discover new things that engage them about the entries here. In addition, there is a variety of ways in which the special days are approached. For Earth Day, Crystal J. Stranaghan explores what happens when road construction displaces a troll named "Tontii"; for the International Day of Families, Claire Wilson shows us how a really big family goes on "The First Picnic" of the year in winter; and for International Left-Handers Day, Melanie Jackson's Ailie Mooney solves the mystery of "Napoleon is Winking" by determining what a portrait of the Emperor is holding in his right hand.

Ken Kilback

**The King's Taster**

written by Kenneth Oppel  
illustrated by Steve Johnson and  
Lou Fancher

HarperCollins Publishers, 2009  
978-0-00-200700-9 (hc) \$19.99  
for Kindergarten to Grade 3

*Picture Book – Food*

Being a king's taster has its risks, but it is a fabulous job if one loves to eat. Max, a beagle who belongs to the finest cook in the kingdom, has a grand life tasting the king's cuisine to ensure that it isn't contaminated. All is well – until a new king is crowned. To the cook's dismay, this young monarch refuses to eat what has been prepared for him, even though it has