



National Section of India

International Board on Books for Young People

Highlights

2024





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Parag

Parag, an initiative of the Tata Trusts, was set up to support the development of and access to good-quality storybooks for children in Indian languages. We support school and community libraries so that children have free access to books and an open and vibrant environment that supports reading for pleasure. We also work to nurture the children's literature and libraries sector through awards, professional courses, and linking various stakeholders together through events for teachers, librarians, and facilitators.

IBBY

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization representing an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together. It was founded in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1953. Today, it is composed of 84 National Sections all over the world. It represents countries with well-developed book publishing and literacy programmes, and other countries with only a few dedicated professionals who are doing pioneering work in children's book publishing and promotion.

Parag-India Chapter of IBBY

In January 2024, Parag was convened as the official Indian National Section of IBBY. With a presence in 85 countries, IBBY is dedicated to enhancing children's reading experiences and ensuring access to quality books. IBBY also supports awards and initiatives that promote excellence in children's literature while advocating for every child's right to become a reader.

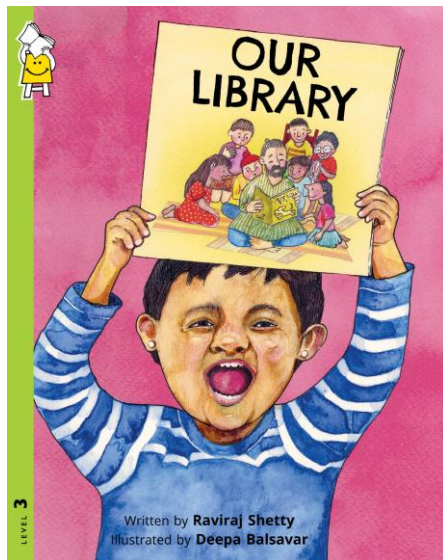
The Executive Director of IBBY circulates the annual plan and announcements of various activities hosted by different National Sections, encouraging participation and cross-sharing of initiatives. Over the past year, Parag-India Chapter actively engaged in multiple IBBY activities, conferences, and reading promotion programs, including:

1. Submission for the IBBY List of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities
2. Applying for the IBBY Yamada Fund
3. HCAA 2026 jury nomination
4. Showcasing IBBY's Silent Books 2023 to Indian audiences
5. Submission for the IBBY List of Silent Books 2025
6. Participation by representing Parag-IBBY India
 - a. NESCHIL Conference, Nepal
 - b. IBBY Congress 2024, Trieste, Italy

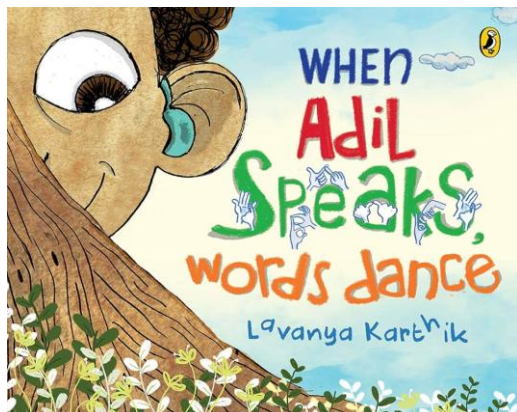


IBBY list of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities

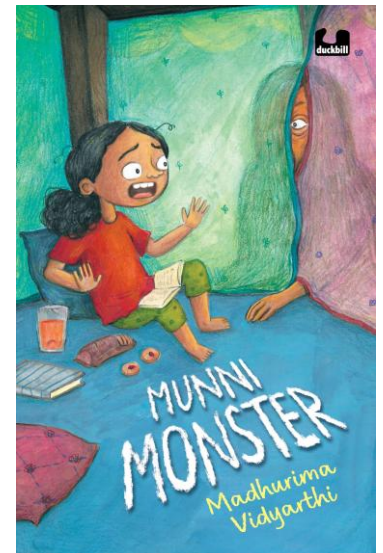
To curate a set of outstanding picture books and novels featuring characters with diverse abilities, IBBY invites National Sections to nominate outstanding titles. Parag-India submitted three books for consideration under the category 'Portrayals of Disability':



Title: ***Our Library***
Author: Raviraj Shetty
Illustrator: Deepa Balsavar
Publisher: Pratham Books



Title: ***When Adil Speaks, Words Dance***
Author: Lavanya Karthik
Illustrator: Lavanya Karthik
Publisher: Puffin Books
An Imprint of PRH, India



Title: ***Munni Monster***
Author: Madhurima Vidyarthi
Illustrator: Tanvi Bhat
Publisher: Duckbill Books
An Imprint of PRH, India

Although these titles were not selected for the 2025 list, they will remain part of the reference collection housed in Toronto. We look forward to the announcement of 40 selected titles from 24 countries in 18 languages.

[Click here](#)

to know more about IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities.





Yamada Fund 2025

The IBBY-Yamada Fund offers grants to projects that promote a book culture for children globally. Each year, nominations are invited from IBBY chapters and ten projects are selected. Each project receives USD 5,000, with additional matching funds from other sources.

Parag nominated two proposals from two organisations in India that are committed to reading enhancement programmes.

We are thrilled that **Nurturing Critical Literacy through Literature in Indigenous Children**, a project by Muskaan Bhopal, was selected for the Yamada Fund 2025.

The project aims to develop critical literacy through the use of storybooks with children in two vulnerable indigenous groups in central India. It is aimed that this emergent learning space will be able to enhance academic skills and contribute to their (negligible) formal education journeys, while also supporting children and young people in anchoring themselves in their indigenous identity and adopting values of humanity and social justice. Muskaan is closely committed to working on the project from January to December 2025.

HCAA 2026 Jury Nomination

The Hans Christian Andersen Award (HCAA) Jury is composed of ten members chosen among the candidates nominated by the IBBY National Sections. Jury members are selected based on their deep knowledge of international children's literature, their ability to understand books from other cultures, and their commitment to dedicate the necessary amount of time to the study of all the candidates' work.



Parag, IBBY India, nominated Dr. Shailaja Menon in consultation with the advisory committee and it is a matter of immense pride for the Indian children's literature sector that Dr. Menon was selected to be on the jury of HCAA 2026. This is the first time an expert from India is on the prestigious jury along with 9 other members in the IBBY network.

[Click here](#)

to read about the HCAA 2026 jury members.



Engaging with IBBY Silent Books 2023

IBBY launched the project “Silent Books, from the world to Lampedusa and back” in 2012 with an aim to curate a collection of Silent Books that can be read and understood by children across geographies. The National Sections shares the list of outstanding books with IBBY and IBBY then releases a full list and the honour list of Silent Books. These sets are part of a travelling exhibition and are open for borrowing. Parag-IBBY India borrowed 17 books from the 2023 set.

There was much excitement within the team as we received such a remarkable set of books and we wanted to share with the larger community. We held multiple sharing and workshops around the set.

- A. Display of the books at Masterclass held in October in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- B. Display of the books at the refresher workshop of Library Educator Course Hindi (LEC) alumni.
- C. Reading books in a virtual session with LEC alumni.
- D. Workshop at Bhabook, an organization working on reading promotion in Kolkata, West Bengal.



A. Display of the books at Masterclass 'More Than Words: Creating Wordless Stories', October 2024

The masterclass on creating wordless stories was an opportunity to display the 17 wordless books that were a part of the IBBY Silent Books 2023 set. The books reached us in time for the masterclass and it was a treasure trove to have! The group of 20 illustrators (participants), faculty and Parag team members spent 3 days browsing and reading the collection of wordless books put out for them, which included the IBBY set.



Some were familiar with a few books like *I Walk with Vanessa*, *Peka*, and *Forever Home*. It was a most exciting experience for all to access these books.



B. Display of the books at the refresher workshop of Library Educator Course Hindi (LEC) alumni

In October 2024, a three-day LEC Alumni Refresher Workshop brought together participants from nine different batches to share their experiences since completing the Library Educator's Course. A special highlight of the workshop was the display of IBBY Silent books, showcased on a dedicated stand in the same room as the sessions.

One of the most engaging moments came during a session on Illustrations led by guest faculty Prachi Kalra, faculty, Delhi University. She introduced participants to the world of wordless or silent picture books, drawing attention to elements like colour, line, structure, book shape, and borders as powerful tools of 'non-textual' storytelling. Using titles such as *El Paseo* and *Peka* from the IBBY display, she demonstrated how visual elements convey narrative. Her session sparked such interest and curiosity that, by the end, only a few books remained on the shelves!



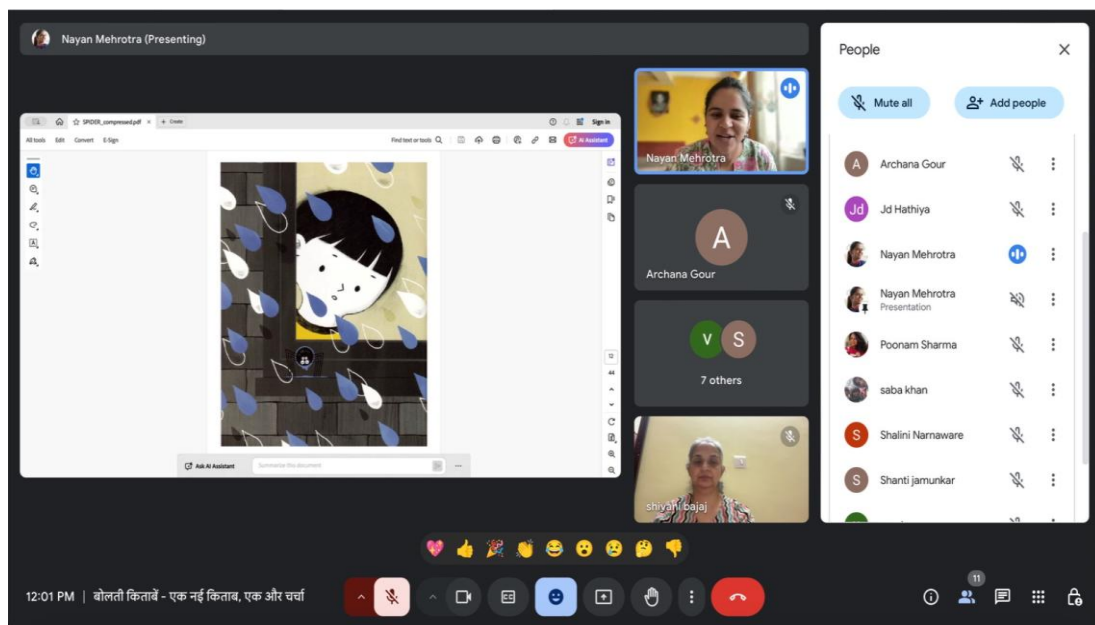
C. Reading books in a virtual session with LEC alumni

The LEC alumni has been actively engaging on WhatsApp, where members regularly participate in book-related discussions and activities. These interactions have become a valuable way to support and enhance continuous professional learning within the community.

As a part of this initiative, we organized virtual reading sessions to delve into the remarkable books along with course alumni. It has been a pleasure to read and reflect on the stories together.

So far, we have explored:

- *El Paseo (The Walk)* by Celia Sacido, published by Cuento de Luz SL
- *My Friend Spider* by Seungbeom Lee, published by Polar Bear Publication



D. Workshop at Bhabook, an organization working on reading promotion in Kolkata

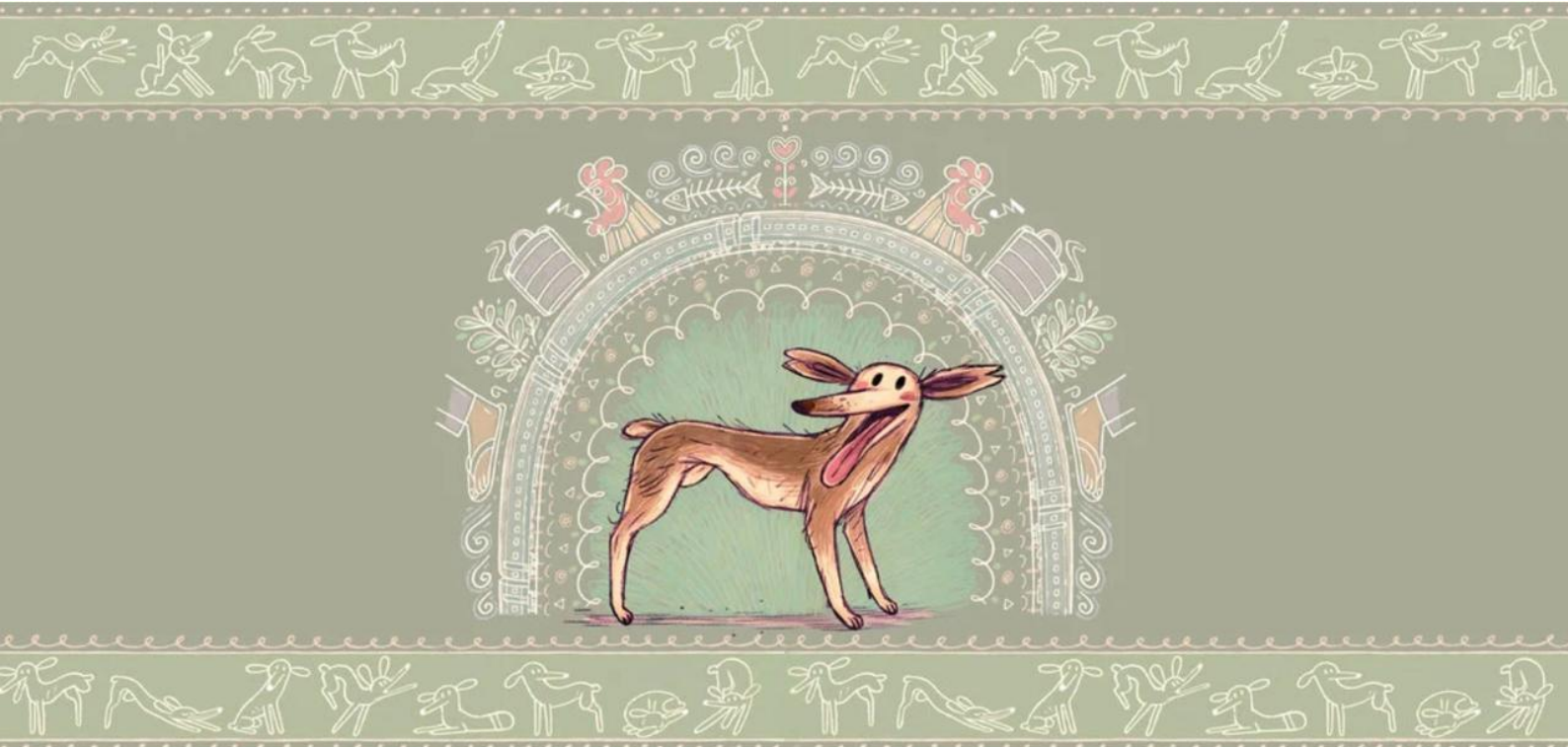
Bhabook Foundation had the privilege of receiving 17 carefully selected wordless picture books from the India Chapter of IBBY, Parag. To celebrate and explore these unique books, a workshop titled Silent Stories was held at the Ek Tara Resource Library in Kolkata.

The session focused on sharing the books and discussing creative pedagogical approaches to engage children with them. Twelve participants from organizations including Sanchar, Rupantaran Foundation, Ek Tara, Towards Future, Aditi Education Trust, and Pratham Education Foundation came together to explore the books through engaging activities like picture puzzles and card games. It was a truly enriching experience, with everyone appreciating the brilliance and beauty of these wordless picture books.



While wordless books have found a place in Indian publications since the 1980s, we still have a long way to go, in creation as well as consciously bringing it within the reading ambit for children, placing it within the discourse and dialogue around children's literature in India. We hope that this is a beginning.

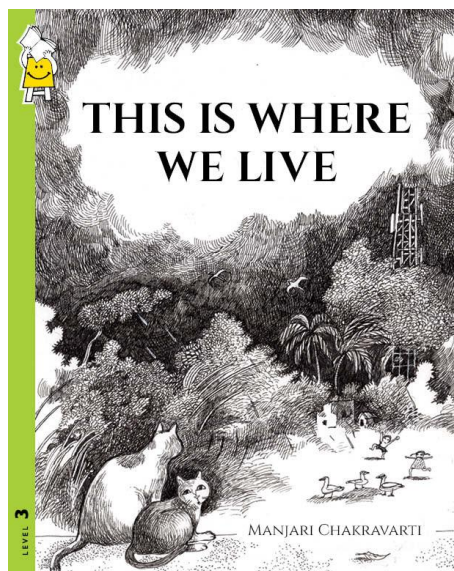




Submission for the IBBY List of Silent Books 2025

Parag-India submitted five Indian published wordless books as nominations for the IBBY Silent Books 2025 Honour List.

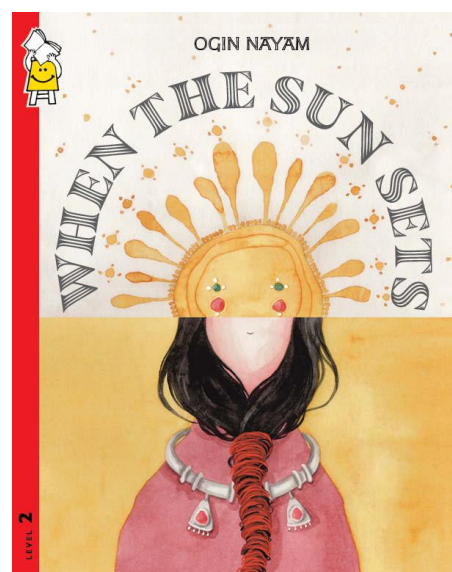
In order to select 5 outstanding books, the team created a list of wordless books and voted to choose the top-5 books for nomination.



Title: ***This is Where We Live***

Author-illustrator: Manjari Chakravarti

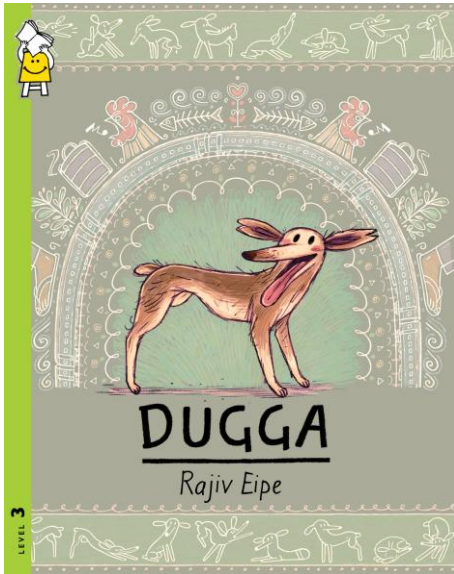
Publisher: Pratham Books



Title: ***When the Sun Sets***

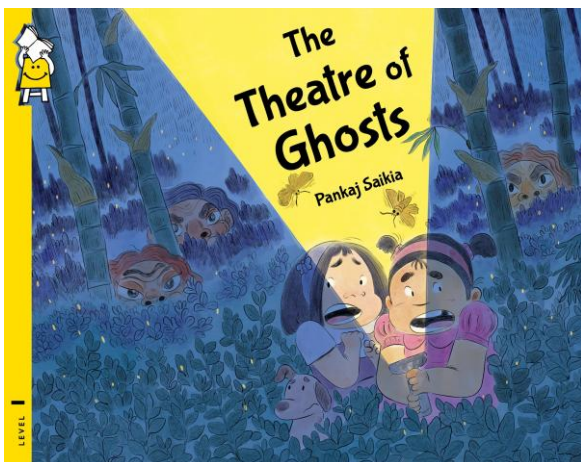
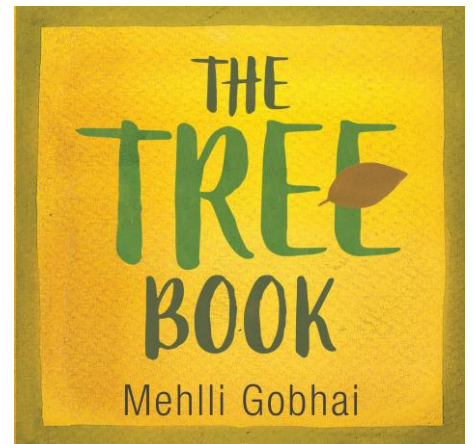
Author-illustrator: Ogin Nayam

Publisher: Pratham Books



Title: ***Dugga***
 Author-illustrator: Rajiv Eipe
 Publisher: Pratham Books

Title: ***The Tree Book***
 Author-illustrator: Mehlli Gobhai
 Publisher: Talking Cub,
 an imprint of Speaking Tiger Books



Title: ***The Theatre of Ghosts***
 Author-illustrator: Pankaj Saikia
 Publisher: Pratham Books

An international panel of specialists will identify books that they especially wish to draw attention to. These books will be officially presented as the IBBY Silent Books Honour List at the Bologna Children's Book Fair 2025.



Participation Representing Parag-IBBY India

A. NESCHIL Conference in Nepal

Nepal Academy and Nepalese Society for Children's Literature (NeSChIL) jointly organized, International Conference on Children's Literature, the first of its kind in Nepal, from 20 to 22 September 2024 in Kathmandu.

Parag, IBBY India, was invited to submit a paper on themes aligned with NeSChIL. We invited Tultul Biswas from Eklavya, Bhopal, to explore these themes and prepare a submission. She chose *The Political Dimensions of Children's Literature* as her focus and authored the paper titled *Where am I in My Books*. IBBY India facilitated her participation in the conference.



B: IBBY Congress

IBBY's biennial international congresses bring together IBBY members and other people involved in children's books and reading development from all over the world. The congresses are excellent occasions to make contacts, exchange ideas and open horizons.

Amrita Patwardhan, Head-Education, Tata Trusts, attended the IBBY Congress 2024 held in Trieste, Italy. She met members of other IBBY National Sections, authors and illustrators, also the winners of HCAA 2024, iReads and Asahi award and executive committee members, Bookbird editor, which was a very rich experience. She also made a poster presentation 'Professional development courses for educators: An Invisible force for reading promotion.'



Way Forward

The year 2024–25 has been a meaningful and enriching journey for Parag as the India Chapter of IBBY. We are thankful for the opportunity to learn from and engage with IBBY and its global network of National Sections. Through book nominations, participation in awards, and virtual exchanges, we have deepened our commitment to nurturing the children's literature landscape in India.

As we move forward, our efforts will remain rooted in the belief that every child deserves access to stories that reflect and expand their world. We are excited about our engagement this year and look forward to deeper collaborations with the IBBY community worldwide in the coming years



Illustration Credits

Illustrations used in this report are from the books...

- *The Theatre of Ghosts*, author-illustrator: Pankaj Saikia,
- *When the Sun Sets*, author-illustrator: Ogin Nayam,
- *Dugga*, author-illustrator: Rajiv Eipe, and
- *Our Library*, written by Raviraj Shetty and illustrated by Deepa Balsavar.

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