

PRESS RELEASE

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International Children's Book Day Thursday 2 April 2009

Since 1967, on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, 2 April, International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is celebrated all over the world to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.

The celebratory day is coordinated by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), a non-profit organisation dedicated to bringing children and books together. IBBY has members from over 70 countries, who work individually and together to promote and support children's literature and reading. Each year, a different section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), has the opportunity to sponsor the worldwide event. This year, EBBY, the Egyptian section of IBBY, has chosen the theme for the celebration – "I am the World" – and the International Children's Book Day poster for 2009 was illustrated by Egyptian artist and former Disney animator, Hani D. El-Masri.

Ann Lazim, the President of IBBY UK, said: "International Children's Book Day symbolises the wonderful work achieved by IBBY all over the world, in promoting international understanding through the medium of children's books and striving to give children everywhere, access to books so they can develop a love of reading. We encourage everyone, especially teachers and parents, to celebrate the joy and value of children's books this year on 2 April and make the day a truly international celebration. All those interested can visit IBBY UK's website – www.ibby.org.uk - for reading ideas and resources."

IBBY UK, the British section of IBBY, supports the organisation's mission through a number of events and activities and is currently working towards the international congress, "Crossing Boundaries: Translations and Migrations", which is to be held in London in 2012.

With every word on every page
I travel through time and space.
And on the wings of fantasy
My spirit crosses land and sea.

The more I read, the more I know
That with my book
I'll always be
In the best company.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

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For further information on International Children's Book Day, visit:
<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=920> and
<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=269>