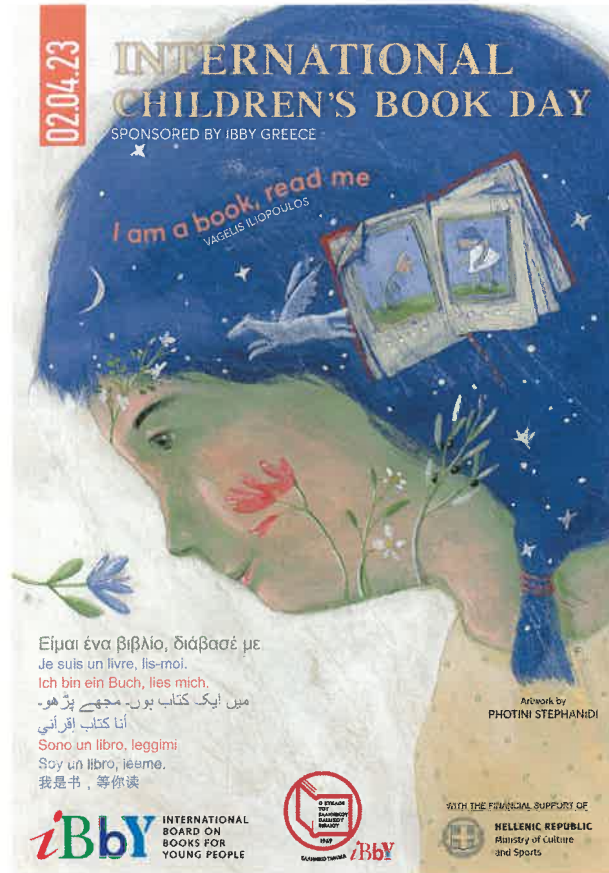


Every year, on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday on 2 April, **International Children's Book Day (ICBD)** is celebrated to inspire love for reading and call attention to children's books. The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), an international, non-profit organization has been sponsoring the event since 1967.

IBBY Greece is honoured to be the official sponsor of International Children's Book Day 2023, designing a poster for IBBY sections around the world to promote books and reading.

I am a book, read me is the theme of this year's International Children's Book Day poster. The prominent Greek author, Vagelis Iliopoulos, and the well-known Greek artist, Photini Stephanidi, have collaborated to create a poster that celebrates the power of children's books in the promotion of the values of equity, diversity and inclusion and connect people in a world of tolerance and understanding.

Happy International Children's Book Day 2023 from IBBY Greece!



Photini Stephanidi
International Children's Book Day 2023 Illustration

Vagelis Iliopoulos
International Children's Book Day 2023 Theme

Michalis Varouxis
Poster and Message Design



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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Culture
and Sports



Message to the children of the world on
**INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY 2023**

I am a book, read me.
Είμαι ένα βιβλίο, διάβασέ με.
Je suis un livre, lis-moi.
Ich bin ein Buch, lies mich.
میں ایک کتاب ہوں۔ مجھے پڑھو۔
أنا كتاب إقرأني
Sono un libro, leggimi.
Soy un libro, léeme.
我是书，等你读



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and Sports



PHOTINI STEPHANIDI was born in Greece in 1962. The artist and illustrator Photini Stephanidi completed her studies in painting and fresco art at the Athens School of Fine Arts in 1986, where her teachers included artists of international repute such as Yannis Moralis and Dimitris Mitaras. Since 1988, she has exhibited her work in twenty solo exhibitions, as well as in many group and international exhibitions of painting, engraving and illustration in Greece and abroad. Her pictures have featured in more than a hundred published works, including editions of Greek folk tales, literature, and poetry, and she has made a specialty of producing collectors' editions. She also has been the author of ten books. Notable among the many prizes and distinctions her work has gained for illustration and engraving are the Biennale of Illustration Bratislava Plaque (2001), the Greek State Prize for Illustration (2003, 2007 and 2011), the Belgrade Illustrators' Biennale 'Golden Pen' (2005 and 2013) and 'Plaque' (2010), the prize for illustrations from the Greek Section of IBBY (1995, 2005, 2011 and 2018), as well as the EBGE prize and mention 2007 and 2013. She was selected by the Greek Section of IBBY for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, and for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA). She has also been awarded the prize for young adults' literature from the Greek Section of IBBY (2021).



VAGELIS ILIOPOULOS was born in Athens, Greece in 1964. He studied Pedagogy and Theology in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and is currently the Director of one of the most prestigious private primary schools in Athens. He wrote his first children's book in 1995 and in 1997, he published *O Trigonopsaroulis (The Little Triangle Fish)*. By talking about tolerance and understanding, this little fish has become the most famous contemporary Greek literary hero. Since then, Vagelis has written a great number of books for children and young adults. Many of them have been translated and published in several countries and have frequently received awards, including the Award of the Greek Section of IBBY, and the Greek State Children's Literature Award. He has also written plays for theatre and movie scripts and translates children's literature. Vagelis' books have been selected for the IBBY Honour List, the IBBY Outstanding Collection of Books for Young People with Disabilities and the International Youth Library's White Ravens catalogue. He has participated in international book festivals, such as the Berlin Literature Festival, the Book Fest in Cyprus, the Bankya Festival in Bulgaria, among others. As a volunteer for the promotion of reading and children's literature, Vagelis writes articles, gives lectures, and organizes different reading projects and campaigns in schools and libraries. He also teaches Creative Writing. The Greek Association for the Psychosocial Health of Children and Adolescents has appointed him *Mental Health Messenger* in Schools. He has been nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award by the Greek Section of IBBY, and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) by the Cypriot Section of IBBY. IBBY Greece has also proclaimed him as *Ambassador of the Greek Children's Book*.



I am a book, read me by VAGELIS ILIOPOULOS

I am a book.
You are a book.
We are all books.

My soul is the story I tell.
Every book tells its own story.

We can look quite different –
some big, some small,
some colourful, some black and white,
some with a few pages, some with many.

We may say similar or completely different things,
but that's our beauty.
It would be boring to be all the same.

Each of us is unique.
And each of us has the right to be respected,
to be read without prejudice,
to be given space in your library.

You may have opinions about me.
You may choose to question or comment
on what you read.
You can put me back in the library
or hold me close and travel with me a long way.

But never let someone throw me away
or send me to another shelf.
Never ask for my destruction, nor allow anyone
else to do.

And if a book ever comes from another shelf,
because someone or something drove it away,
make room.
It fits next to you.

Try to feel as it feels.
Understand it. Protect it.
You may be in its place tomorrow.

Because you are a book, too.
We all are books.

Let's all say it loudly so everyone can hear.

«I am a book, read me.»