



## World Book and Copyright Day 23 April 2003

By celebrating this Day throughout the world, UNESCO seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright.

23 April: a symbolic date for world literature for on this date and in the same year of 1616, Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, K.Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mej Vallejo. It was a natural choice for UNESCO's General Conference to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity. The idea for this celebration originated in Catalonia where on 23 April, Saint George's Day, a rose is traditionally given as a gift for each book sold. The success of the World Book and Copyright Day will depend primarily on the support received from all parties concerned (authors, publishers, teachers, librarians, public and private institutions, humanitarian NGOs and the mass media), who have been mobilized in each country by UNESCO National Commissions, UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, Associated Schools and Libraries, and by all those who feel motivated to work together in this world celebration of books and authors.

from UNESCO website  
[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/ev.php?URL\\_ID=5125&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/ev.php?URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC)



## 2003 UNESCO Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance

Created in 1995 as a follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance, the UNESCO Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance is awarded every two years. It honours works for the young that best embody the concepts and ideals of tolerance and peace and pro-

mote mutual understanding based on respect for other people and cultures. The Prize was awarded for the first time in 1997.

For the 2003 awards the Organization received 353 entries from 54 countries in 35 languages, which were evaluated by independent readers in the original languages. A total number of 55 pre-selected books were submitted to the International Jury which met on 9 and 10 December 2002. From these, the Jury recommended to the Director-General one prize-winner for each of the two categories, who will receive US\$8,000 each donated by UNESCO's partner and prize sponsor, Ediciones S.M. of Spain.

The Prize-giving ceremony will be held at UNESCO, Paris, on 23 April 2003, World Book and Copyright Day.

### Books for children up to the age of 12:

#### *La Composición*

by Antonio Skármeta (Chile), illustrated by Alfonso Ruano, from Ediciones Ekaré (Venezuela)



"La Composición" (The Composition/La Rédaction)

A story about a boy living with his family under military dictatorship. He sees how his classmate's father is taken away in a military jeep, and one day a man in uniform visits his classroom and asks the children to write a composition about "What my family does at night". Thus Pedro must answer for himself the question he once asked his father: "Can children be against dictatorship?" With the creative force of a child's words, Pedro invents a story that will save his parents from coming under suspicion.

### Books for young people aged 13-18:

#### *Because Pula Means Rain*

Jenny Robson (South Africa) from Tafelberg (South Africa)

A story about what it means to be different. Emmanuel is an albino who lives in small village in Botswana with his grandmother. His greatest wish is to be brown like everybody else; he is ostracised by his peers, pregnant women turn away from him in fear and even his mother cannot bear to live with him. His story has an undercurrent of deep sadness and is one of a search for identity, a sense



"Because Pula Means Rain"

of purpose and meaning for this lonely boy. The writer highlights the effects of all kinds of discrimination, that against a "coloured" or mixed-race girl, or that against a blind girl. The story is also about different belief systems co-existing, for "in such a wide and open land spread out under such a wide and open sky, there is room enough for many beliefs and many truths."

## ACCU Activities in Jan.-July 2003

**2003 Invitation Programme for Korean Teachers of the ACCU Invitation Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals**  
15-28 January, Tokyo, Japan

**Planning Meeting for the Afghan-UNESCO-ACCU Project for Promoting Literacy and Non-Formal Education in Afghanistan**  
28-29 January, Kabul, Afghanistan

**Production Meeting on PLANET 3 "Waste Management"**  
5-7 March, Tokyo, Japan

**Consultative Meeting for Establishing of the Literacy Resource Centre for girls and Women (LRC) in Sri Lanka**  
13-14 March, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

**Meeting and International Symposium on Megalithic Culture—Comparing Prehistoric Ruins of the East and Europe**  
19-21 March, Nara, Japan

**Capacity Building Workshop for Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women (LRCs) in Asia and the Pacific**  
9-18 April, Chongqing, China

**"Palette of Dream Colours"**  
Exhibition of winning works of the 2002 Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustrations, co-organized with International Library of Children's Literature  
25 April-6 July, Tokyo, Japan

**International Seminar on Endangered Language in Asia and the Pacific**  
11-12 June, Tokyo, Japan

**Traveling Photo Exhibition in Asia and the Pacific "Joy of Sport"**  
23-27 July, Tokyo, Japan

**UNESCO Asia-Pacific Forum**  
29-31 July, Tokyo, Japan

(as of March 2003)