

"Flight and Migration" in German-language picture books and didactic implications for primary education

Kordula Schulze



I. Foreword on the educational policy situation of the integration of refugees



Photo © Norbert Primary School, Münster

II. Diversity as a task for primary schools and teacher training



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III. Didactical classification of picture books with a special focus on the subject of flight and their use in primary schools



Stadt Münster: <https://www.mulingula.de/das-mulingula-projekt/impressionen.html>

III.a Didactic relevance of literacy - for teacher training - and for pupils (1)

Multilingual children are a very heterogeneous group.

Some have been living in Germany since birth, others have moved in under different socio-economic conditions.

Some children grow up simultaneously, others successively with two or more languages - including German...



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III.a Didactic relevance of literacy - for teacher training - and for pupils (2)

Advantages that speak for the use of picture books in primary school lessons:

- While reading and listening, the children develop ideas
- Pupils link their subjective involvement and accurate perception
- The children become aware of the language
- They learn to comprehend the perspectives of literary figures
- They learn to deal consciously with fictionality
- The children begin to understand metaphorical and symbolic expressions
- The pupils can get involved in the incompleteness of the symbolisation process
- They gain prototypical ideas of literary genres (cf. Spinner 2019, Kurwinkel 2020, p. 196)

III.a Didactic relevance of literacy - for teacher training - and for pupils (3)



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III.b Selected examples of picture books with the topic of escape

In the following I would like to present seven selected picture books on the subject of escape (alphabetically according to authors).

The selection includes German-language picture books from the second decade of the 21st century.

This selection of picture books focuses on the culturally sensitive content as well as the language design, but the quality of the illustrations also plays a major role.



Photo © by Kordula Schulze

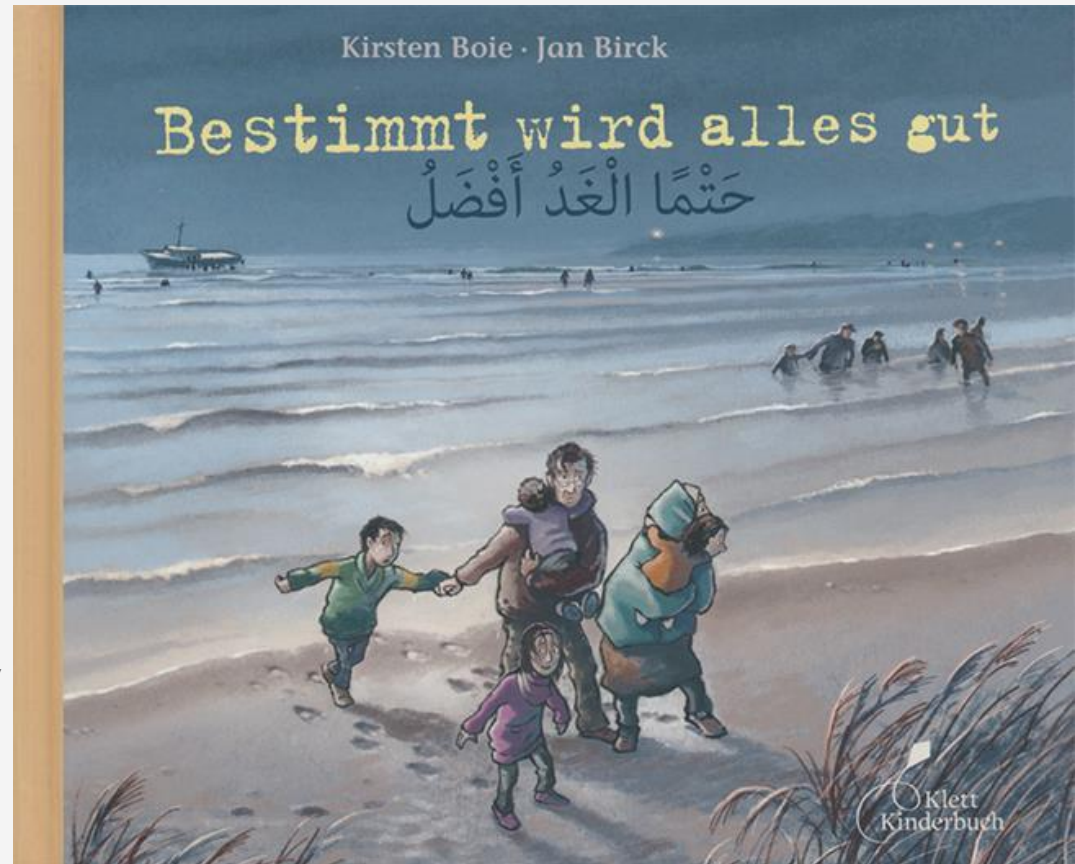
Kirsten Boie: *Everything will be all right (1)*

Kirsten Boie has written a moving story about the Syrian children Rahaf and Hassan.

In it, she tells of the children's life in Syria, of the family's nerve-racking escape and their arrival in Germany.

The story invites pupils to talk with their teacher about the fate of the refugees.

This can increase their empathy and their willingness to understand.



Kirsten Boie: *Everything will be all right* (2)



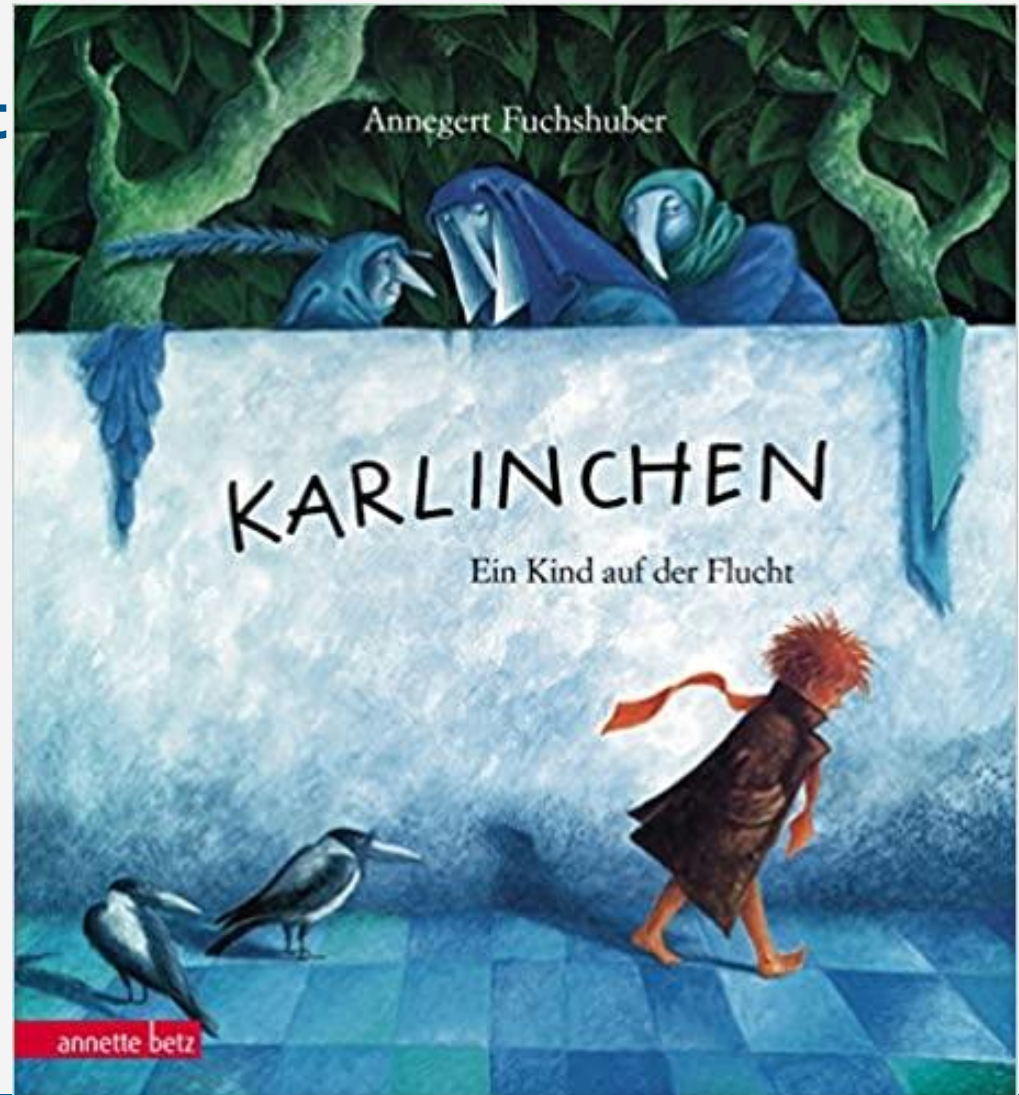
Little Caroline. A child on the run. By Annegert Fuchshuber (1)

"Karlinchen ran away, because fire fell from the sky" (A.F. 2015,5).

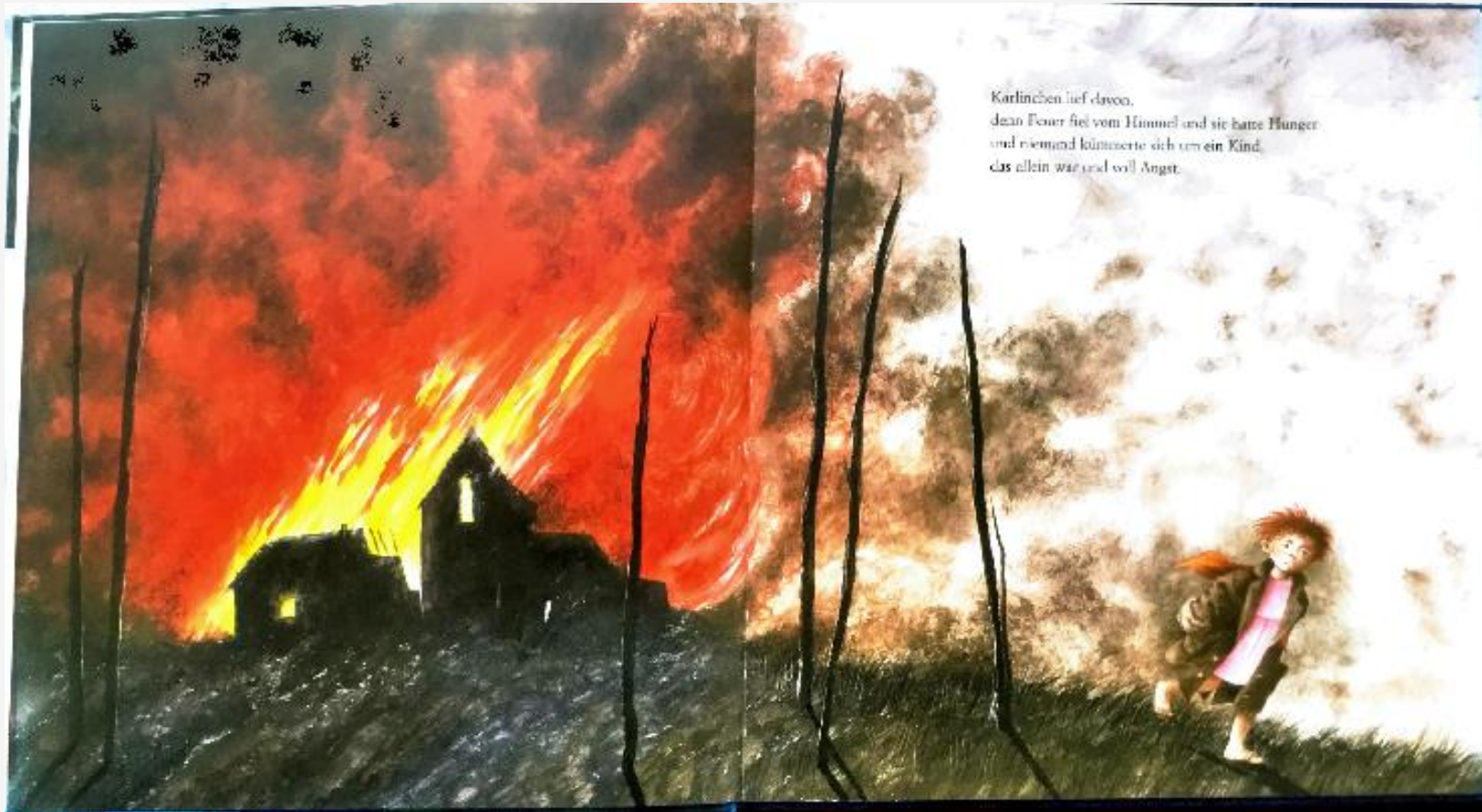
Karlinchen (Little Caroline) is hungry, but "nobody cares about a child who was alone and full of fear".

"Go somewhere else", like a mantra the sentence moves the story forward.

As bleak as Karlinchen's prospects are, she goes on looking for people to help her. She is looking for a new home...



Little Caroline. A child on the run. **By Annegert Fuchshuber (2)**



Tsozo and the foreign words. By Frank Kauffmann and Beate Fahrnländer (1)

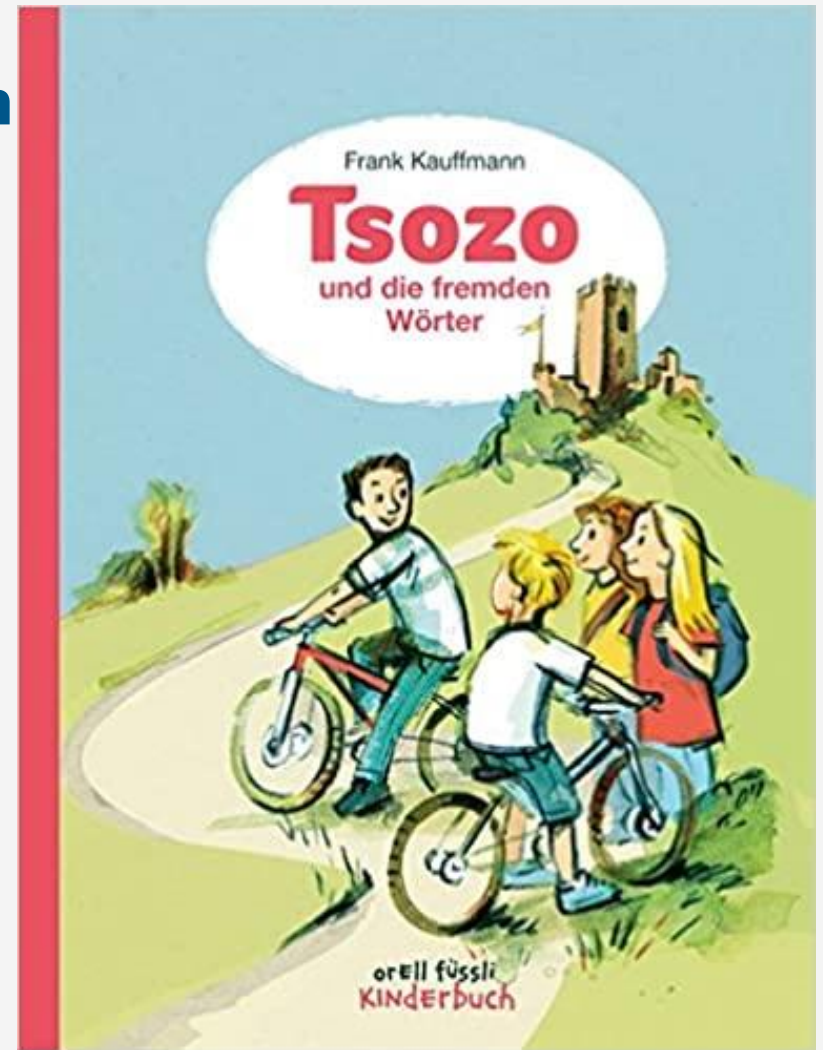
How does it feel when the people around you speak a foreign language?

When they look different?

Behaving differently?

Tsozo experiences exactly that.

He comes from a distant country, learns a new surrounding and a new language. ...



Tsozo and the foreign words

by Frank Kauffmann and Beate Fahrnländer (2)



***My two blankets* (Home can be anywhere)** by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood (1)

Her aunt used to call her "Wildcat" because she loved to play outside and discover the world. One day the war came and Wildfang had to leave her home...

The authors tell a story about arriving after fleeing.

About leaving everything behind,... but at the same time taking the opportunity to start a new life in Europe...

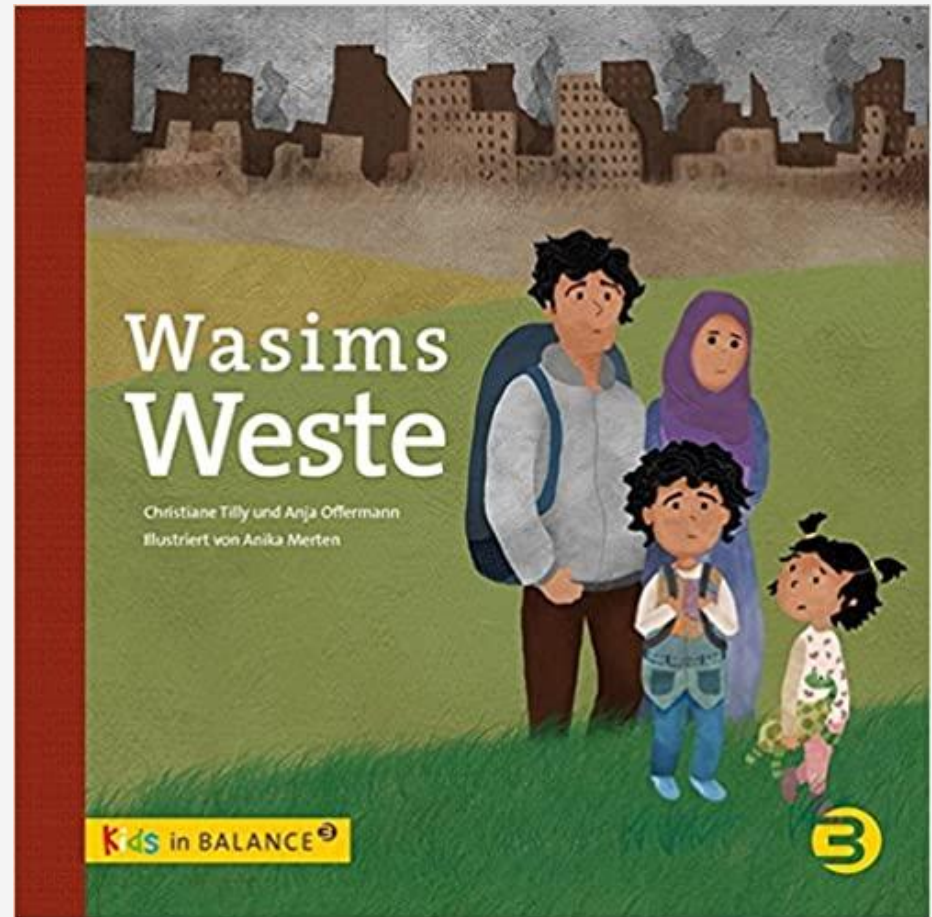


My two blankets by Irena Kobald & Freya Blackwood (2)



Offermann, Anja / Tilly, Christiane et al.: Wasim's waistcoat. Explaining flight and trauma to children.(1)

Wasim is eight years old. Together with his parents and his little sister Samira, he fled from the war in his home country Syria. Because grandma and grandpa could not come with him, grandma sewed a waistcoat for Wasim - from her old dress and grandpa's worn out trousers. The waistcoat is supposed to comfort and protect him...



Offermann, Anja / Tilly, Christiane et al.: Wasim's waistcoat. Explaining flight and trauma to children.(2)



Schreiber-Wicke, Edith/Holland, Carola: Who wants the blue raven?(1)

This picture book tells the story of the little blue raven, which at first still has its home in the shimmering green rainforest,

but then is chased away by a horrible fire and wants to find a new home on the run.

This, however, turns out to be difficult ...



Schreiber-Wicke, Edith/Holland, Carola: Who wants the blue raven? (2)

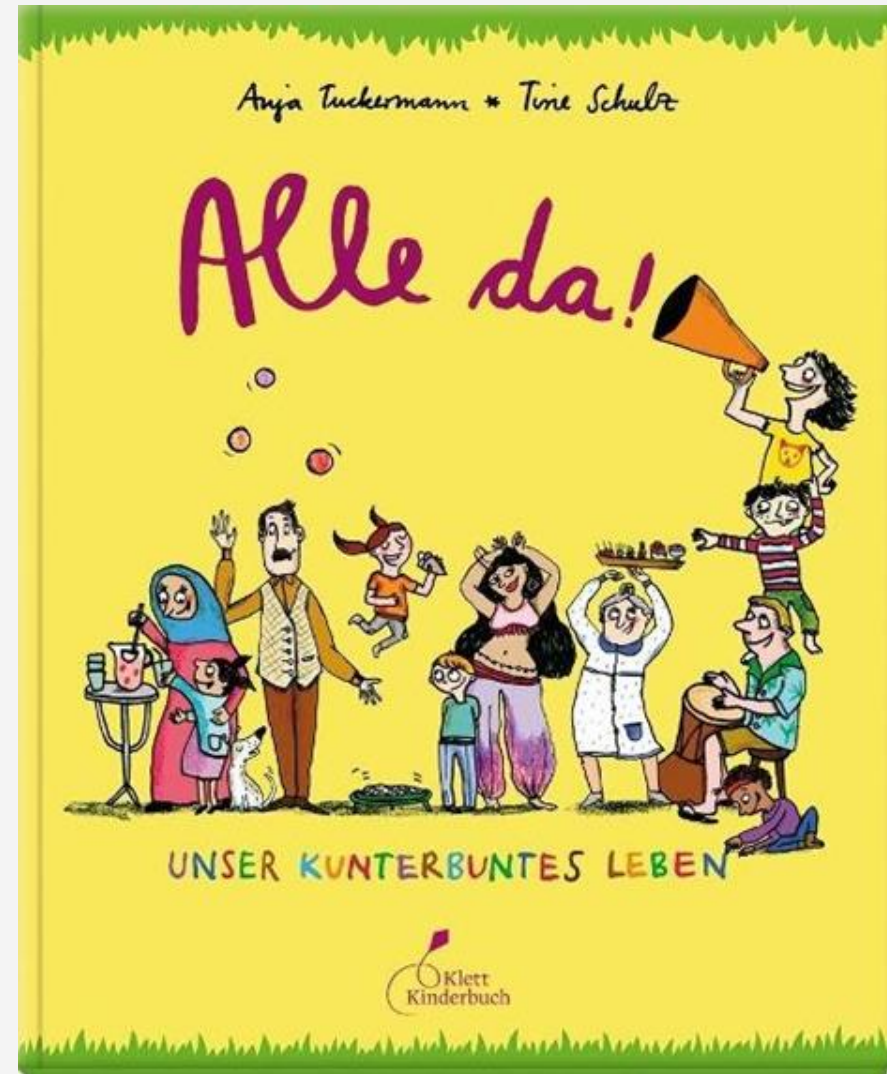


All here! Our colourful life. **by Anja Tuckermann and Kristine Schulz (1)**

Samira arrived in a boat across the sea and on a truck from Syria to Germany. Amad misses his football friends in Iraq, but because there was war there, he and his family had to flee. Dilara's parents are from Turkey, she was born in Berlin, speaks perfect Turkish...

If you think back far enough, we almost all came from somewhere else. Now we all live here in Germany together.

That can be exciting and sometimes difficult. In any case, life is getting more colourful...



All here! Our colourful life.

by Anja Tuckermann and Kristine Schulz (2)



IV. Aspects of action- and production-oriented didactics

The fate of the refugees occupies many people.

Depending on their age group, children and young people need to deal with the subject of flight and expulsion differently.

This is exactly what some current picture books do on a high level.

Here we have the responsibility to train teachers well with regard to diversity.



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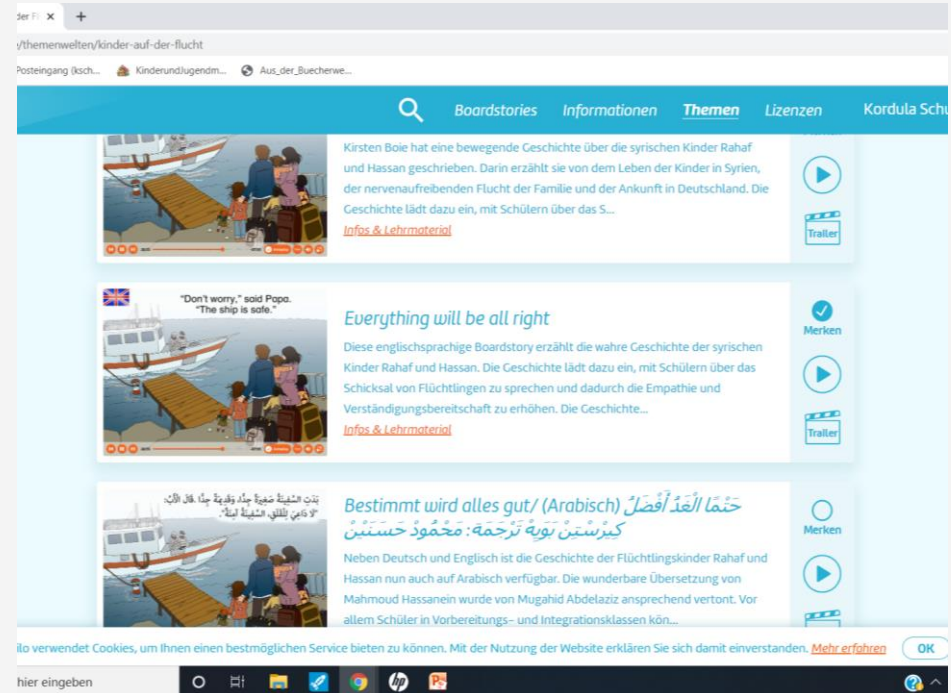
Board Stories

Pedagogically useful, didactically versatile **Onilo** is a reading learning portal that offers animated picture books, called board stories.

The new media and literarily and pedagogically valuable picture books thus become meaningful unity.

Board stories are geared towards the promotion of reading and language skills.

In addition, they can be used flexibly: e.g. in German and English lessons as well as in project work.



www.onilo.de board stories, supplemented with teaching suggestions (license required)

Picture book cinema

This makes reading aloud a new experience in the classroom.

With the free "picture book cinema" children can discover picture books together in class. The picture book with the text must of course be purchased.

This form of presentation means that there is no more wrangling to see the pictures in the book in the "theatre circle". A beamer is used to project the picture book while the teacher reads aloud and involves the children - this way the attention of all the pupils is assured.



<https://www.carlsen.de/bilderbuchkino>
supplemented with teaching suggestions (charge free,
registration required)

A narrative theatre, the *Kamishibai*



Photos © private

Shadow theatre and Role-playing games



Photos © private

Conclusion

Literature on migration and refugees has both a literary and pedagogical-integrative value and shows possibilities for action and reflection using children's literature.

Picture books on the subject of escape can be treated in many different ways in primary school lessons, with a focus on action and production.

The picture books shown in this presentation offer numerous occasions for dealing with escape contexts in classroom practice.



Photo ©Kordula Schulze



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