

How to publish a picture book on bilingual-picturebooks.org

General information

It is best to contact us before organising a picture book workshop. We are happy to help you with any questions/ problems you may have.

It is also helpful for us to know in advance that a new book is being created. We can start looking for translators early and the book can be uploaded faster. (Besides, this way we can already look forward to the new book!)

We are also happy to send you our "**Compendium for Bilingual Picture Book Workshops**" to help you as a "toolbox" and provide inspiration.

It is important to us that all books on the website are written or narrated and illustrated **by children or teenagers (up to the age of 19)**. Language and content of the stories should come from the group of children or teenagers.

The children are free to choose their own topic. However, we will not publish books that discriminate against or exclude other people. We won't publish books that are one-sidedly politically or religiously motivated either.

How long it takes to upload the book depends on whether we have to edit the text (e.g. spelling) and the pictures (e.g. brightness) and whether you already send us a finished translation alongside your story or whether we have to organise the first translation through our network. Approximately, it takes two weeks.

Please send all files, images, translations and information to c.sturm@buecherpiraten.de.



Text

- For copyright reasons, no brand names, names of characters from TV shows, films, etc. should appear in the story.
- A picture book usually has between **12 and 18 pages of text**. The book should not be much longer.
- In order for the text to fit next to the images in all languages and scripts, it should have **no more than 650 characters per page**.
- Please send us the text as a **Word file** (doc, .docx, .odt, and for non-alphabetic languages additionally as .pdf) and label the pages with **page numbers** (e.g. [1] at the top of the page).
- Please **proofread the text** again before sending it to us. Missing commas, temporal inconsistencies or typing errors are often only noticed on the second or third read-through.
- Please send us **the names** (either first name only or first name and surname) of the authors, illustrators, moderators and, if applicable, also the speakers and translators. You can also send us a short description of the institution in which the book was written. If the children's parents agree, we can also publish a picture of the group in the book.



Translations

- We are happy if you can already organise translations yourself. Perhaps multilingual parents and friends of the children/teenagers would like to translate the story? It is important that at least two native speakers work on one translation: One person who translates and one who proofreads.
- You can also send us a **“wish list” for translations**. For example, if you are planning to organise a multilingual reading, we will try to find translators in our network of volunteers in the specific languages you need. Of course, we cannot guarantee that they will have the time.
- **Notes for the translators:** When a story travels around the world and from one language to another, it changes. Please reflect on whether there are any special features in your story that should not be lost in translation.
 - Are there special **puns, ambiguities, onomatopoeias** that should be preserved?
 - Example: In the story "Where are you, Momo?" the mermaid Luxa in German repeats the exclamation "Ach, du meine Kajüte!" which literally means "Oh, my dear cabin!". The translators were advised that the maritime allusion should be preserved in the translation so that in English the exclamation became "Holy mackerel!"
 - Is it important for your story to preserve the **names and gender** of the characters? For example, if your characters are animals, they will have certain grammatical genders in other languages. Think about what that means for your story.



Pictures

- For each page of text, there should be a picture or photo created by the children/teenagers themselves, including the cover picture.
- In order for the pictures to match all language combinations, it is best that there is **no writing on the illustrations**.
- Please send us the images in the following format:
 - For the web version of a page: 800 x 563 pixels
 - For the print version of a page: 3579 x 2092 pixels.
 - If you cannot take pictures in such high resolution, we can also upload the book as a web version only for now and add the print version later.
- Please also label the pictures with the respective **page number**.

