

“What People Are Doing for ISLM”



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We celebrated International School Library Month with a project we called '**With the Book Around the World**'. At the beginning of October, our geography teacher had brought a world map in the school library. Students and teachers wrote their names on the small flags and marked on the map the countries they have visited. By the beginning of November, we marked 36 countries with more than a hundred little flags. School librarian found a book from our library for every flag on the map to stand for the culture of the appropriate, marked country and made a book display. Australia was represented with *The Ghost's Child* by Sonya Hartnett and *Saving Francesca* by Melina Marchetta, Brasil with *The Mystery of the Little Ugly Princess* by Pedro Bandeira, Bulgaria with *Yan Bibian on the Moon* by Elin Pelin, Egypt with *Arab folktales*, Ethiopia with *The Fire on the Mountain* by Harold Courlander, India with *The Gardener* by Rabindranath Tagore, Israel with *The Fox in the Chicken Coop* by Ephraim Kishon, the United States with *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger, *Mama, I Love You* by William Saroyan... Some recalled and others found out for the first time that Belgium is a homeland of *Martine* from famous picture book series, and, recently, of *The Wolf Who Fell Out of a Book*, that *Bambi* comes from Austria, that Greece is not only a favorite summer nearby destination but the cradle of Homer's epic poems, Aesop's Fables, Sophocles tragedies and interesting contemporary teen novels, such as *Play it backwards* by Vagelis Iliopoulos. One of the books students were most excited about was *Minik Yüreklerin Sesi: Gülsen Mustafa Muzuri İlkokulu*, a gift from the school library's visit during IASL Conference in Istanbul. Many students wanted to hold the book in their hands to admire drawings of their Turkish peers.

The project has been passing in sharing the most beautiful impressions from areas and countries we had visited, yet with a note of regret that we could have traveled more. While imagining new departures, let us not forget that every book is a journey, and the library is a treasury where every journey starts, a meeting place of different cultures of the world.





