



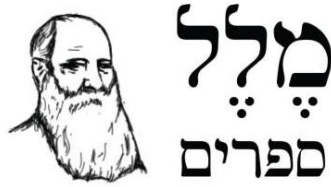
Mellel Publishing House

www.jonyavin.com

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Mellel Publishing House

2026 Catalogue



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About Jonathan Yavin

Author and Publisher

Jonathan Yavin is an Israeli author of 18 books for children, young adults, and adults, and a recipient of the 2012 **Prime Minister's Literary Award**. His books are consistent bestsellers, often reprinted ten times or more, and many continue to sell nearly 25 years after their first publication. His most successful title, *Pumpkin the Kitten*, has sold over 200,000 copies, reached platinum status, was adopted for TV and more.

Yavin's works have been translated into English, Arabic, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Croatian, with Spanish forthcoming in April 2026. His long-running children's show, "Literary Standup Comedy," has been performed in schools for almost two decades, and several of his books are included in school curricula. "I value honesty and clear communication between parents and children," he says. "You should always tell them the truth, even if it's not pleasant. Just try to make it funny."

For nearly 30 years, Yavin worked as a journalist in national media and appeared widely on television and radio. He is also an editor and translator from English (including *Three Men in a Boat*, *Tarzan*, and more). During the Covid-19 period, he recognized the severity of the crisis in Israel's book market and founded Mellel Publishing House.

To date, Mellel has released Yavin's fourth novel, *Loyal to None but Himself*, which received enthusiastic praise from critics and readers alike ("A brilliant book," wrote *Maariv*). Mellel has also published two children's books of his, a revised edition of his 2012 writer's guide, *Building a Story*, a Croatian children's book, and *Hybrid Bird*, a poetry collection by Yael Gavey. A culinary memoir and a YA financial storybook are slated for publication in 2026–2027 alongside other imported and original projects



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Newest:

Building a Story

A writer's guide



A renewed edition of the 2012 blockbuster that became the writer's best friend. The guide is divided into 3 parts, the short first 2 offer insight into the philosophy and psychology of the trade and the main and 3rd part offers 20 lessons in the practice: protagonist, dialogue, plot forming, paragraphing, etc. [Ask for sample](#)



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King Leo Retires

Renewed Edition, March 2025

"Book parade" participant!

Israeli Board of education 2026-2027 school year

A renewed edition for this 2015 bestseller!

King Leo's had it with running the jungle! In wake of his retirement the animals form a dysfunctional government and Leo doesn't enjoy sitting idly either. A tale about democracy and following natural disposition.

Ages 4-9

40pp. Mellel Publishing House, 2025. Originally published in Kinneret-Zmora Publishers, 2015.

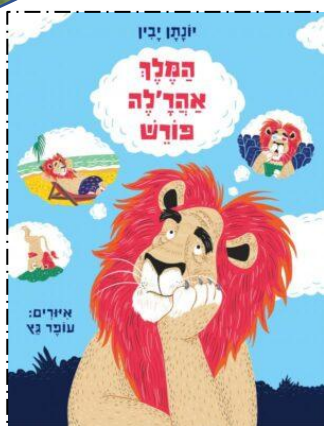
Illustrations: **Ofer Getz**.

Translations: Chinese (2018), Spanish (2026)

Rights availability:

All other languages.

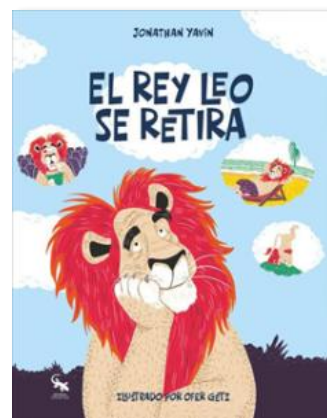
Representation: info@jonyavin.com



Original edition, 2015



Chinese edition



Spanish edition



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Rona's Moving Out

May 2024

Grades 1-3 "Book parade" #3!

Israeli Board of education 2025-2026 school year



Rona doesn't want to tidy up her room and decides

to move to her best friend from upstairs. There Rona realizes there's no place like home.

Ages 4-8, 40pp.

Illustrations: **Aviel Basil.**

Mellel Publishing House, 2024.

Rights availability:

All languages/territories.

Representation: info@jonyavin.com



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A Night at the Playground



What a strange boy he is, Ben Guggenheim!

He always wants things when it's not the right time!

Ben persuades his parents to go to the playground at night. Only then does he understand the logic of grown-ups, while his parents are reminded it's good to have fun sometimes...

Ages 4-9, 32pp.

Illustrations: **Aviel Basil.**

Am-Oved Publishers, 2021.

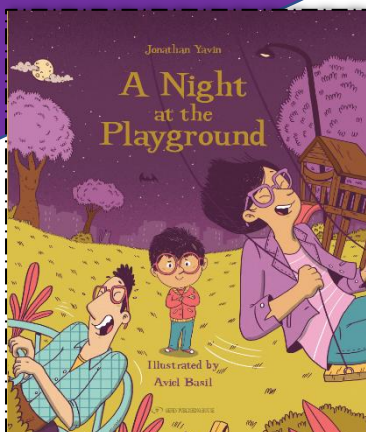
Accolades: 1st edition sold within 6 months.

"Book Parade" Participant, Israeli board of education

Translations: English USA (2023).

Rights availability: All other languages.

Representation: [Assia Literary Agency](#)



USA edition



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When I Grow Up...



An amusing rhymed catalog of professions,
over 10 re-prints! Grandma asks her
grandson what he wants to be when he
grows up, he explores.

Ages 4-8.

Co-written with **Nevo Ziv**.

Illustrations: **Na'ama Peleg**.

36pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2002.

Rights availability:

All languages/territories.

Representation: info@jonyavin.com



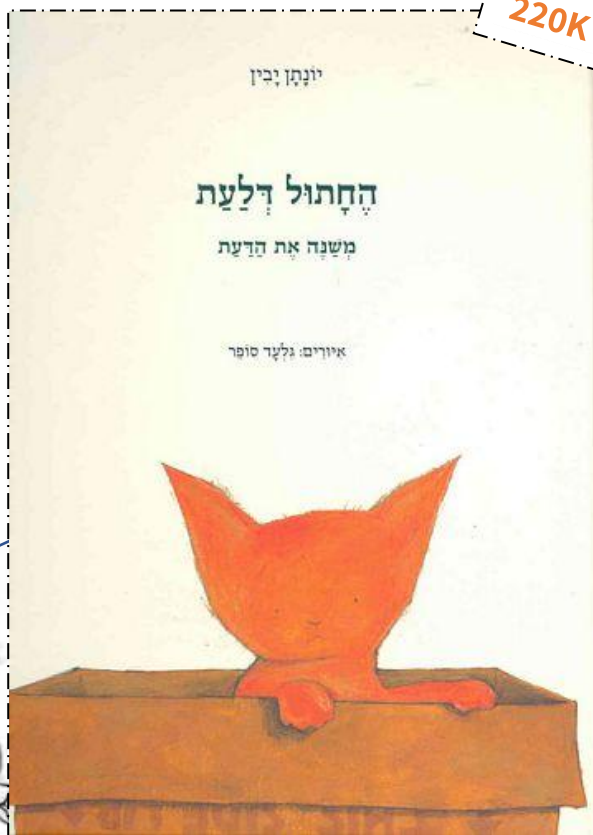
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Pumpkin the Kitten

Amazing bestseller!
220K copies and counting...



A boy afraid of cats can't resist Pumpkin, a shelter kitten his father brings home. A story about false fears of the unknown.

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Gilad Soffer**.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2004.

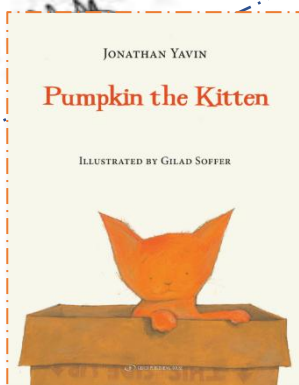
Achievements:

- * PJ Library grand issue
- * **Platinum book**
- * TV adaptation

Translations: Arabic (2006), English USA (2023), Croatian (2023).

Rights availability: All other languages.

Representation: info@jonyavin.com



English (USA)



Arabic



Croatian



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Oh, Brother



A new baby overshadows older sister who persuades her parents to swap him in the hospital, where she realizes their special connection and her role as firstborn.

Ages 2-6.

Illustrations: **Gilad Soffer.**

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2005.

Achievements:

* The Israeli Museum Illustration prize.

* Huge best-seller, over 13 re-prints.

Rights availability:

All languages/territories.

Representation: info@jonyavin.com



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When Sad was Sad



Noa is sad and dad makes up a silly nonsense story to pull her out. A sad golden fish named Bleak saves the day! 6 re-prints and counting...

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Gilad Soffer.**

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2008.

Rights availability:

All languages/territories.

Representation: info@jonyavin.com



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In the Neighborhood



The neighborhood's kids are running around looking for an adventure, old school! A salutation to the 1980's childhood.

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Noam Nadav**.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2010.

Rights availability:

All languages/territories.

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Dorri the Dragon



Dorri dreams he's a dragon and decides to stay in character all day. His fiery behavior causes trouble at home and in kindergarten, eventually teaching him that being "on your own" can get lonely. A story especially cherished by children and parents on the spectrum.

Ages 4-8.

32pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2013.

Illustrations: **Ofer Getz**.

Rights availability:

All languages/territories.

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Cockatoo Hairdo



French edition



German edition

Rama's hair seems to have a life of its own. One morning, she discovers two tiny hatchlings nestled in it, lost and unsure where their mother has gone!

Ages 4-8.

Illustrations: **Liora Grossman**.

36pp. Am-Oved Publishers, 2017.

Translations: German (2017), French (2017).

Rights availability:

All languages/territories including German and French (rights retrieved to author).

Representation: info@jonyavin.com



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Young Adults

Golden Ones



428pp. 2011, Am Oved Publishers,
Representation: info@jonyavin.com

Anti

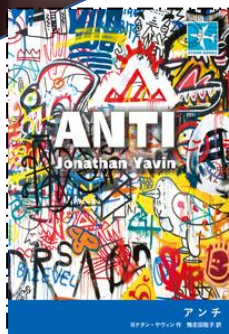


247pp. 2011, Am Oved Publishers,
Representation: info@jonyavin.com

Love vs. Friendship



216pp. 2011, Miskal PH,
Representation: info@jonyavin.com



Japanese edition

Jonathan's 3 fiction novels for young adults met with an enthusiastic crowd and critics. Specifically, their power to touch young hearts was repeatedly mentioned. **Golden Ones** is a classic boarding-school thriller; **Anti** - a hardcore realistic rap novel; **Love vs. Friendship** - a rom-com for boys.

Regardless of its heavy-weight onset of a suicide in the family (the uncle), **Anti** was translated into Japanese. "Young adults ache to be listened to and are looking for books that will affirm what they think matters and what they feel is okay," says Jonathan.



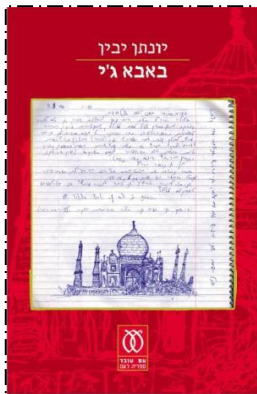
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Fiction Novels

Baba Gee



369pp. 2004, Am Oved PH

House-Sitter



357pp. 2011, Am Oved PH

The Misanthropist



479pp. 2014, Kinneret-Zabam PH

Loyal to None but Himself



348pp. 2022, Mellel PH

Jonathan's 4 fiction novels are literary events *per se*. His unique worldly ability to write about the human condition won him a crowd of devotees that is growing by the book. His masterful use of drama and style was repeatedly acknowledged by star Israeli authors like **David Grossman**, **A.B. Yehoshua**, **Haim Be'er** and others. His 2nd novel, *House-Sitter* secured Jonathan's the Prime Minister Literary Award 2012. His novels, described by critics as "*brilliant... sexy... highly entertaining*" are smartly plotted, humorous and edgy, cruel at times. He mercilessly dives into sensitive themes like father and son issues, existential insignificance, cultural violence and in his latest and highly praised novel, *Loyal to None but Himself*, loyalty & betrayal.