

Press release

18th January 2008

Pim reveals secret

On 23rd January 2008, all primary schools in the Netherlands will receive a free copy of the book *Geheim* (Secret), written by Hiltje Vink. The Department of Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap (OCW) (Education, Culture and Science), sends these books at the beginning of the Nationale Voorleesdagen (National Read-to Days) to bring the subject of *Geheim* to the attention of schools: low literacy.

In the book, Pim tells about this mother, who could not read and write until recently. He discovers his mother's secret when she could not be a reading mum in school. For years, his mother managed to hide her secret from her surroundings. And then she decides to go back to school to learn how to read and write. Pim is embarrassed about this.

In the Netherlands, 1.5 million adults cannot participate sufficiently in society, because they cannot read and write properly. With distributing *Geheim*, the department of OCW wants to tell children that there are adults who cannot or barely read and write. In addition, the department wants to draw the schools' attention to low-literate parents. Schools can stimulate parents to go back to school. The Nationale Voorleesdagen, running from 23rd January until 2nd February, form a good occasion to pay attention to the problem of low literacy.

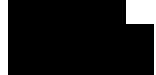
The book is the result of the collaboration with Stichting Lezen & Schrijven and Stichting Biblionef.

The book is available from Dutch book shops from 23rd January at the price of € 4,95.

Hiltje Vink is, amongst others, author of the books *Brenda heeft een draakje in haar bloed* (1998) about a girl with HIV, *Mikko, mijn stoere broer* (2003) about a handicapped little boy and of *...die dag dat de tsunami kwam* (2005), about children who have survived the tsunami.

Note for the editors, not for publication:

For more information about *Geheim* (also to apply for the book):



hiltje.v@planet.nl

For more information about low literacy:
Stichting Lezen & Schrijven



communicatie@lezenenschrijven.nl

www.lezenenschrijven.nl

For more information about the National Read to Days:

www.cpnb.nl