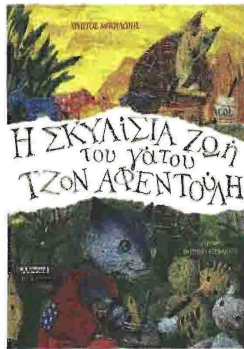


Diavazo Literary Awards announced

Writers, publishers, illustrators, translators and readers packed the auditorium of the Benaki Museum on Pireos Street on May 10 for the Diavazo Literary Awards ceremony.

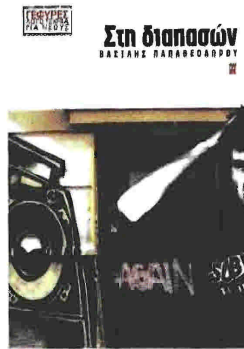
Diavazo editor Yiannis Baskozos began the evening with a tribute to the three workers who suffocated after hoodlums set fire to their bank during the May 5 general strike.

On a more cheerful note, a custom-made video of a pesky cat framed the award announcements. Marina Karaitidi of Hestia took the prize for her contribution to books. Vassilis Gourouyiannis won the novel award for his book set in Cyprus, "Prasini Grammi" (Green Line). The short-story award went to Ilias Papadimitrakopoulos, for "I thisavros ton aidonion kai alla diigimita" (The Nightingales' Treasure and Other Stories), published by Gavrilidis. Yiannis Kiourtsakis declined the essay prize for "Enas horikos sti Nea



Two books for young readers that won Diavazo Literary Awards on May 10.

Yorki" (A Villager in New York), published by Indiktos. Haris Vlavianos won the poetry prize for "Diakopes stin Pragmatikotita" (Holidays in Reality), published by Patakis. Kal-



lia Papadakis won the prize for a debut author with her short-story collection, "O ihos tis akaliptou: Exi koinochristes istories," a title which roughly translates as "The Sound of

the Apartment Block Yard: Six Communal Stories," published by Polis. Author Christos Boulotis and illustrator Fotini Stefanidi won the illustrated children's book award for "I skilisia zoi tou gatou Tzon Afentouli" (The Dog's Life of the Cat John Afentouli), published by Ellinika Grammata. And Vassilis Papatheodorou won the award for a book for older children with his novel "Sti diapason" (Full Blast), published by Psychogios.

Winners and audience socialized over drinks after the ceremony and voiced their opinions about the choices and the procedure. While this observer appreciated a ceremony mercifully free of long-winded announcements by jury members who suffer attacks of garrulity when faced with an audience and a microphone, it would help to have an explanation of why each winner was chosen.