



marvellous books

RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2024



Illustration by Rūta Briede



Liels un Mazs is a family-owned and run children's book publisher based in Riga, Latvia, founded in 2004 by Alise Nigale (Publisher and Managing Director), Inese Zandere (Editor-in-Chief), and Ūna Laukmane (Head of Design).

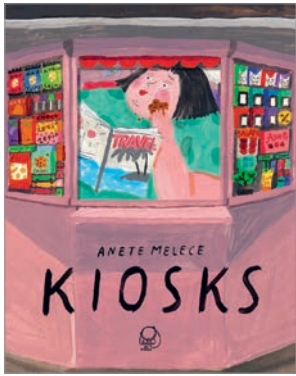
It started with a single book that our co-owners, Inese and Ūna, had written and illustrated. With a mission to get this title back into print when its original publisher dissolved, Liels un Mazs was formed, and now, in 2024, we are celebrating a milestone birthday, and our list has grown from one to over 300 titles strong.

Over the years, our work has been recognised with various awards nationally and internationally, the highlight of which was the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year for Europe in 2022.

From the beginning, Liels un Mazs' vision has been to introduce Latvian readers to contemporary picture books, poetry, and fiction by talented local authors as well as outstanding translations. Our catalogue spans from modern classics to unexpected artistic experiments, delving into serious and complex topics while showcasing diverse writing styles and illustrations. We also love organising various cultural events – exhibitions, concerts, readings, and theatre plays that evolve from our books.

Liels un Mazs' original titles have been translated into over 30 languages worldwide, and some of our authors have become international stars. Our list of published translations includes works from esteemed authors and illustrators from around the globe, such as Kristin Roskifte, Kitty Crowther, Edward van de Vendel, Romana Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv, Maria Parr, and many more.

Liels un Mazs' publishing choices are reasoned and responsible, making our books a unifying space where different generations can meet and understand each other.



THE KIOSK

Kiosks by Anete Melece
5+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-10-8

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2019, Excellence Award of Culture 2021, IBBY Honour List 2020, Peter Panpriset 2021 (Sweden), Independent bookstore association prize Premio Orbil 2019 (Italy)

Foreign rights sold: German, French (World), Swedish, Korean, Simplified Chinese (Mainland China only), Complex Chinese Characters (excluding Mainland China), Italian, English (World), Estonian, Spanish (World), Catalan, Czech, Croatian, Slovenian, Mongolian, Japanese, Arabic (World), Portuguese (European), Dutch, Greek, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian

The kiosk has been Olga's workplace and home for years now. She feels like she can never leave it to fulfil her dream of watching beautiful sunsets in faraway lands. One day, something dramatic happens that makes her wish come true. Children can follow Olga's funny and exciting journey, while adults can perhaps relate to feeling 'stuck' in life. The multi-layered, life-affirming story and Anete's vibrant, expressive illustrations have made *The Kiosk* an international bestseller.

neighbourhood — urban environment — stuck in a routine — dreams come true — travel

In 2013, Anete Melece created a 7-minute-long animated short film *The Kiosk*, which gained international recognition and received more than 20 awards in Switzerland, Latvia, China, Korea, Luxembourg, Portugal, Russia, Egypt, and Austria. Her movie has been selected for more than 100 festivals all over the world.



The Kiosk on YouTube

A parable for our time, *The Kiosk* is about escaping a confining routine and finding something better, about being "stuck", as Melece herself has described it, and figuring out a way to "start a journey to your happy place exactly as you are".

Elizabeth Spires for *The New York Times Book Review*

Anete Melece's beautiful painted illustrations use bold strokes to create an endearing childlike style that is also rich with lots of gorgeous detail and colour.

The BookTrust selected *The Kiosk* as one of the best children's books in February 2021

Her subtle text — represented through the gentle translation of Juris Kronbergs — along with her colourful illustrations, *The Kiosk* is a worthy Peter Pan winner.

Peter Panpriset 2021, announced by IBBY Sverige

With *The Kiosk*, Latvian author Anete Melece has created a story for four-to-ten-year-olds, which for the kids in this age group is unusually unsweetened and "un-cute". It is inviting to read it out loud or to read it by yourself, to look closely and discover all the details and to dream about wanderlust.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung





STELLA'S STOLEN SLEEP

Pazudušais miedzīns by Anete Melece
3+ | hardcover | 19x27 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-87-0

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2023,
100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2023 by dPictus,
the BCBF Illustrators Exhibition 2023

Foreign rights sold: German, Korean, French, Greek,
Macedonian, Swedish, Italian, Faroese, Spanish,
Catalan, Japanese, Slovak, Slovenian

It's time to go to bed, but toddler Stella can't fall asleep even after nine bedtime stories. A quick check with the Sleep Helpline and it turns out Stella's sleep is missing, presumed stolen. This calls for a serious investigation, and detectives Hippo, Flamingo, and Bobby get to work. They check everywhere and question everyone before discovering that the sleep was delivered to a room where no one dared to look — the home office where Mum was working late that night. Internationally acclaimed author and illustrator Anete Melece has created a funny story based on the real-life experience of parents about the challenges of bedtime that will seem familiar to every family with young children.

toddler — sleep — toys — bedtime routine — investigation — bedtime stories



THE SECOND CONCERT

Otrais koncerts by Anna Vaivare
5+ | hardcover | 21x33 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-633-11-9

Highlighted by the dPictus jury of the Unpublished
Picturebook Showcase 4 among its top five titles

Foreign rights: All languages available

An aspiring young cellist, Agatha prepares for her first solo with the orchestra. She can't sleep at night, and her hands keep shaking. Could there be anything more awful than making a mistake on stage in front of everybody? When almost everything goes wrong at the concert, Agatha feels like the ground is about to swallow her up. The day is saved by her Grandpa, who helps Agatha believe in herself again and see how a mistake can be turned into an advantage just by a change of attitude.

stage fright — public performance — overcoming fear — intergenerational — orchestra





THE ZOO AT NIGHT

Kas zoodārzā notiek naktī by Egils Zīrenis
 Illustrations by Svens Neilands
 3+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-00-3

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2024

Foreign rights: All languages available

What goes on at the zoo after dark? As the cleverly rhyming poem in this picture book discovers, the animals trade coats and play dress up games while the only human in the story — the night watchman, continues to snore through the nighttime mischief and winds up in the belly of a lion. This book sees words and illustrations play together, encouraging children to join the animals for a wild ride of imagination while keeping the zoological knowledge at the core of the story.

zoo animals — role play — dress up — nighttime — open ending — rhyming text



A HOUSE FOR INES

Ineses māja by Gunta Šnipke
 Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
 5+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-74-0

Festival of creative excellence ADWARDS 2022,
 selected for 100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2023
 by dPictus

Foreign rights sold: Korean

Some might think an architect has an easy job of just drawing a house. This rhyming picture book invites the reader to visit an architect's studio and follow the process of creating a blueprint for Ines's dream house. When the eccentric Ines starts listing all the habits, needs, and wishes of her family, friends, and pets, we learn about the work that goes into designing a building and the importance of managing expectations. The rhyming text takes us through Ines's flight of imagination before culminating in a stunning, intricate, fold-out poster of a house that takes up an entire city block. Both authors of this book — the poet and the illustrator — are also professional architects.

architecture — dream house — home environment — need vs want — spotting game





RIDING HIGH

Zirgā by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
 3+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-533-94-5

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2017

Foreign rights sold: Estonian, Arabic (World)

Practising piano can be boring unless a horse comes to keep you company — then it's the most exciting adventure in the world. This action-packed picture book tells the story of a boy learning to play the piano. The reader can join in on the horseplay and spend ages looking through the extensive detail on each page until the horse runs off just in time before Mum walks in to check on the commotion.

practising piano — learning musical instruments — imaginary friend — horseplay



KATE, THE GIRL WHO WANTED TO BECOME A GRANDFATHER

Kate, kas gribēja kļūt par vectēvu by Signe Viška
 Illustrations by Elina Brasliņa
 3+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-63-4

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2022

Foreign rights: German, French (World), Czech, Spanish (World), Catalan, Basque, Galician, Korean, Italian

Kate wants to be her Grandad when she grows up. In fact, she wants to become Grandad now! A playful picture book about an enthusiastic little girl who is determined to make her spontaneous ideas come alive in a way only children know how. And Grandad is all too happy to play along.

relationship with grandfather — dress-up — role play — feeling good — spontaneity





THE DISCOVERY THAT NEVER WAS

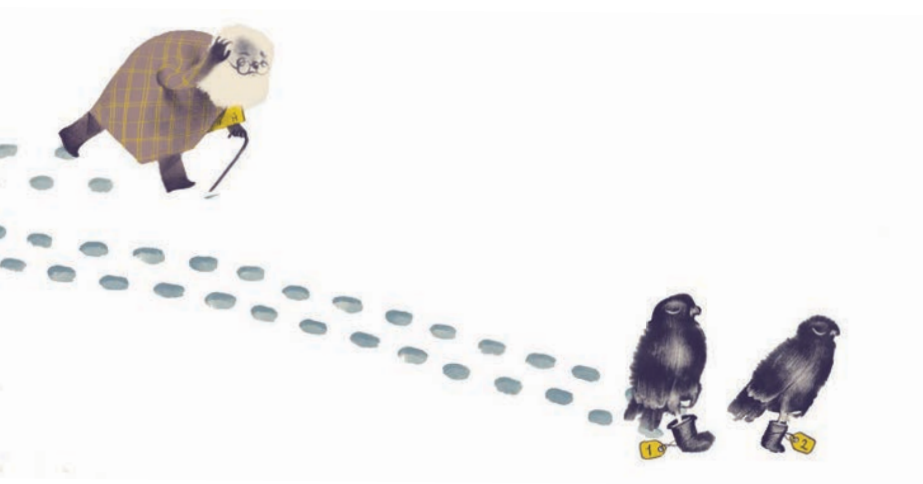
Nenotikušais atklājums by Mārtiņš Zutis
5+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-533-24-2

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art for the best debut 2016, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2017, White Ravens 2016 collection

Foreign rights sold: Korean, Slovenian, Polish, Simplified Chinese (magazine rights only), Estonian, English, Dutch, Spanish (World), Catalan, Basque, Galician

Famous naturalist Karl Darwing is excited for the new edition of his favourite science magazine featuring a magical three-legged raven to arrive. He hops to the letterbox on one leg, as a pet snake has slid into one of his boots. Upon finding mysterious footsteps in the snow, Karl Darwing could be on the brink of an amazing discovery. Could it be a jumping snake, two sleepwalking parrots, three robbers, or a ten-legged alien? Karl gets close to the answer but decides to leave the mystery unsolved so the readers can enjoy working it out for themselves.

counting — imaginary creatures — footprints in the snow — reader participation



REBELLIOUS GRANDPA

Nepaklausīgais vectēvs by Rebeka Lukošus
5+ | hardcover | 23x20 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-66-5

Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2022, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2023

Foreign rights sold: Arabic (World), Korean, Finnish

It's Grandpa's 80th birthday — a perfect day to rebel against the world. Having only done "what's right" for his whole life, Grandpa finally decides to break free from the rules and try every "forbidden fruit" he can think of — driving a car again, strolling on the beach for as long as he wants, eating unhealthy food, and even dyeing his grey hair black! With light and non-didactic humour, author Rebeka Lukošus lets Grandpa go on a mischievous journey until he is ready to return to his loved ones. This book offers a warm and witty look at children's struggles while balancing their need for independence with the world's demands.

birthday — grandad — fulfilling dreams — self-determination — rebelling — joyful protagonist





READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!

Eju meklēt! by Liva Ozola
3+ | hardcover | 27x27 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-20-7

Beijing International Book Fair Ananas Illustration Award Jury's Grand Prize for illustrations

Foreign rights sold: Korean, Arabic (World), French (World), Portuguese (Brazil)

Hide-and-seek is a game loved by children all over the world. Apart from being a great source of entertainment, there is a certain science to finding the right hiding place and knowing where to look when searching. In this book, Vilma plays bedtime hide-and-seek with her dad. The reader can follow their game by opening a cut-out door on each page to see what's hiding on the other side — and try to work out what is real and what Vilma's wild imagination creates.

hide-and-seek — imaginary worlds — bedtime — cut-outs — relationship with dad



BALL IN A BOX

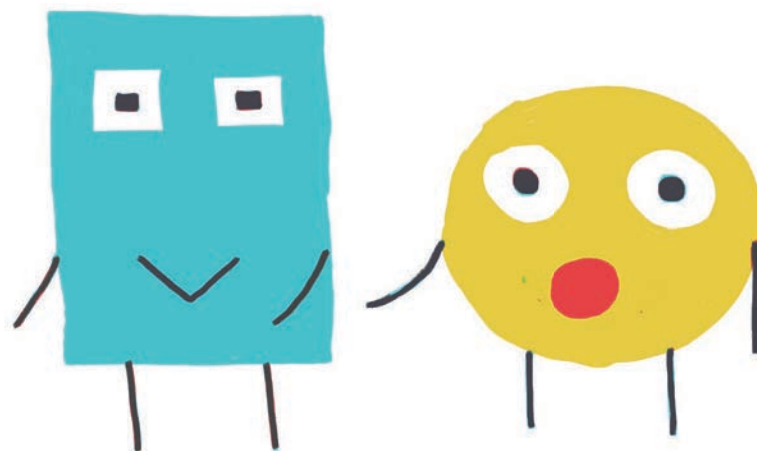
Kamoliņš un kastīte by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Ernests Kļaviņš
3+ | hardcover | 14.5x19 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-88-7

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2023

Foreign rights: All languages available

This baby-friendly book can be enjoyed by the youngest readers as basic shapes are discovered in the process of playful learning. The heroes of the story — Circle and Rectangle — play a game. They try to outdo each other as they look for their shapes in different objects and spot rectangles and circles everywhere, inviting the reader to play along by observing, studying, and imitating things around them.

basic shapes — imitation games — riddle duel — pet cat — unexpected twists





THE QUEEN OF SEAGULLS

Kaiju karalienes noslēpums by Rūta Briede
Crossover | hardcover | 18x14 cm | 44 pages
ISBN 978-9934-533-80-8

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2017 for the best debut

Foreign rights sold: English (UK), French, Korean, German, Galician

Renata lives in a city where seagulls disturb the quiet life she yearns for. She tries to ruin their lives by stealing and eating the gulls' food for lunch. She writes complaints to the city council daily but never gets an answer. Why does she have to suffer so much? The answer lies on a rocky island, far out at sea, in a place where the sun never sets. In this unlikely love story, Renata learns about her true heritage and finds romance along the way.

love story — fairy tale — self-discovery — seagulls — grumpy neighbour



THE DOG WHO FOUND SORROW

Suns, kurš atrada skumjas by Rūta Briede
Illustrations by Elina Brasliņa
Crossover | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-02-3

The National Book Art Contest Award "Golden Apple Tree" 2018

Foreign rights sold: English, Korean, Simplified Chinese (magazine rights only), Chinese (Complex Chinese characters only), Polish

This picture book about sadness and healing tells a story of a dog who finds his hometown covered in black smoke and thick black clouds. Every colour and scent has disappeared. He takes a ladder and climbs up to the sky to find out what's wrong. It turns out that the clouds are filled with sad creatures called Sorrows.

emotions — dealing with sadness — taking responsibility — music therapy — healing





INVISIBLE PLASTERS

Neredzami plāksterīši by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Krista Bitmete
5+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 48 pages
ISBN 978-9934-633-01-0

Foreign rights sold: Estonian
English translation available

Some injuries don't bruise, but they still hurt. Anette and her friends feel the pain from a series of heartaches — failures, disappointments, grudges, and arguments, but luckily, Anette's mum has a fix — invisible plasters. Soon, no more plasters are left in Mum's drawer — just as Mum needs one herself. Fortunately, Anette saves the day by learning to find invisible plasters in her own pocket.

friendship — hurt feelings — empathy — taking care of one another— problem-solving



TWO ALMAS

Divas Almas by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka
5+ | hardcover | 15x21 cm | 40 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-64-1

Golden Apple BIB 2023 (Biennial of Illustrations
Bratislava)

Foreign rights: All languages available
English translation available

Alma spends her summer holidays in a country village. When she overhears her name at a local funeral, Alma becomes “invisible”. She tries to understand the relationship with her own name, the difference between the living and the deceased, and the importance of keeping people who have passed away in loving memory. The author uses light humour to discuss important matters, making seriousness inseparable from a smile.

summer holidays — countryside — extended family — discussing death — honouring the deceased





THE CAPTAIN'S LITTLE HORSE

Kapteiņa zirzīņš by Juris Zvirgzdiņš
 Illustrations by Mārtiņš Zutis
 5+ | hardcover | 16x20 cm | 48 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-52-8

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English translation available

This book tells a sentimental story of a young boy's favourite toy — a red wooden horse. The passage of time makes them grow apart, but the horse never stops being the keeper of its owner's childhood dreams. The boy grows up, becomes a ship captain, and goes to sea. The wooden horse sets out on its own epic journey, and eventually, destiny brings them together again. Combined with dream-like illustrations, this nostalgic story will be appreciated by both children and their grown-ups.

nostalgia — favourite toy — childhood dreams — sea voyage — adventure story



MUFFA

Mufa by Juris Zvirgzdiņš
 Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
 7+ | hardcover | 22x26 cm | 96 pages
 ISBN 978-9984-820-32-3

The National Book Art Contest Award "Golden Apple Tree" 2012, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2011, White Ravens 2012 Collection, shortlisted for Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi 2021 (in category 8+)

Foreign rights sold: Italian
 English translation available

An adventure story of a rhino's journey from Northern Europe to Africa. Born in Norway, Muffa is an orphan whom Ibu, the zookeeper, is looking after. Muffa learns to talk and read in every language, which is useful when they set off on an epic voyage through many countries to reach Africa, coming across icy seas, unsavoury humans, new friends, and inspiring adventures along the way.

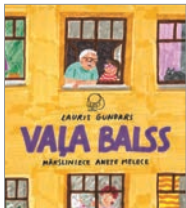
a talking animal — friendship — adventurous journey — European countries — Africa — poaching





WHALE AND BUZZFLY

Sveiks, Vali! | *Vaļa balss* | *Valis ir atpakaļ* by Lauris Gundars
 Illustrations by Anete Melece
 7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 64 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-533-85-3
 ISBN 978-9934-574-12-2
 ISBN 978-9934-574-53-5



International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2018, White Ravens 2018 Collection (for *Hello, Whale!*), International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art for illustrations 2019 (for *Whale's Vote*)

Foreign rights sold:
Hello, Whale!: Russian, German, Korean, Simplified Chinese (Mainland China), Estonian, Mongolian
Whale's Vote: Korean, Mongolian
Whale Is Back: Mongolian
 English translation available



A series about a young girl and her grandfather, nicknamed Buzzfly and Whale. Whale looks after Buzzfly while her parents are at work. They spend a lot of time together and discover the world around them.

In *Hello, Whale!*, Buzzfly observes how her granddad Whale doesn't greet anyone, not even her friend's grandmother, whom they see almost daily. She is determined to teach her introverted granddad to say hello to others, even if it may not be as easy as she had thought.

In *Whale's Vote*, election day is coming, and Buzzfly is worried that her parents aren't taking it seriously enough, so she challenges her family to take responsibility for their choices.

In *Whale Is Back*, Whale's family tries to modernise his life by teaching him to use a tablet computer. When Whale develops a screen addiction, Buzzfly takes on the challenge of bringing him back to reality and real-life relationships. The author helps the reader understand the difference between curiosity and addiction in the world of technology.

relationship with grandfather — the nuclear family — manners — social responsibility — screen addiction — #iamintrovert



TANGO AND TASSEL

Tango un Tūtiņa ciemos | *Tango un Tūtiņa sēnēs* by Māra Zālīte
 Illustrations by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka
 7+ | hardcover | 16.4x21 cm | 64 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-06-5
 ISBN 978-9934-574-95-5

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2012 (for *Tango and Tassel Go for a Visit*)

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available



In this series, beloved Latvian author Māra Zālīte writes about two lively dogs, Tango and Tassel, modelled on the author's own pets. The dogs, who are just like children but with four paws, are curious about the world around them and ready to jump into adventures, often disregarding possible dangers along the way.

In *Tango and Tassel Go For a Visit*, Tango and Tassel decide to go on a train ride to visit their aunt and are excited about eating ice cream and looking out of the train's windows. When Tango gets caught up at the ticket office, the train and his sister leave without him. He must overcome various dangers to find his aunt's village, especially as he has forgotten its name. Using clever wordplay, the author invites the readers to learn about the different villages along the Baltic Gulf of Rīga and meet the members of the local communities.

In *Tango and Tassel Pick Mushrooms*, Tango and Tassel find a good excuse to go to the forest by themselves while their aunt is away - they want to study different types of mushrooms. The mushrooms tell them many secrets about the kingdom of fungi and even reveal a shocking ancient legend. When two shady humans threaten Tango and Tassel, the mushrooms use their special powers to help the dogs return home safely.

relationship with animals — diversity of nature — independence — resourcefulness — navigating unforeseen situations — mushroom kingdom — seaside towns



THE LAIME CHILDREN

Laimas bērni by Luīze Pastore
Illustrations by Evija Pintāne
9+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 176 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-65-8

BRAW New Horizons 2022, White Ravens 2022 collection, International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2022

Foreign rights sold: Italian, Polish, Lithuanian
English sample translation available

A thrilling adventure story based on a real-life character — the famous Latvian-born explorer Aleksandrs Laime (1911-1994), the first recorded human to reach Angel Falls in Venezuela. Laime invites journalists to go on a jungle expedition so he can reveal the secrets of Devil Mountain to the whole world. The main protagonists are his two children and a Swedish journalist who embark on an exciting adventure with elements of danger, treasure hunting, and even magic. This story looks at the human ability to coexist with the jungle, the damaging consequences of greed, and believing in the impossible.

thrilling expedition — jungle — gold fever — survival — courage — family separation



SAMMY SALMON AND THE OCEAN

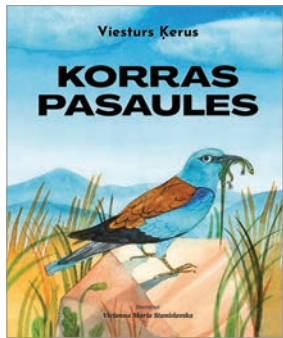
Lasis Stasis un Atlasijas okeāns by Daina Tabūna
Illustrations by Agate Lielpētere
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 72 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-86-3

Foreign rights: All languages available
English sample translation available

This book tells a coming-of-age story of a young salmon named Sammy. As he gets to know other water creatures, the river, and the sea, an old crab tells him about the big ocean. Curious little Sammy imagines the ocean as a world of wonders where everything and everyone is better than in his native river. He decides to see it for himself, setting off on a journey full of danger and self-discovery. This fascinating story describes a rite of passage, but also provides a wealth of knowledge about natural phenomena, presented in an emotional, "humanised" way.

ecology — the life cycle of salmon — coming of age — challenging journey — homesickness





KORRA'S WORLDS

Korra's pasaules by Viesturs Ķerus
 Illustrations by Vivianna Maria Stanislavska
 7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 152 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-81-8

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

Korra is a European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) — a migratory bird — and his world is slowly expanding. The story follows his journey from egg to cage to the neighbourhood around him before finally joining him on his amazing migratory route to the south and back. While migrating, Korra learns about diverse environments, living conditions, other birds, and man-made threats. This book gives an opportunity for children to build respectful relationships with the natural world by expanding their knowledge of nature and geography while also exploring the captivating illustrations.

life cycle — coming of age — bird migration — ecosystems — Africa — natural world — slow reading



MAIJA AND THE FOREST

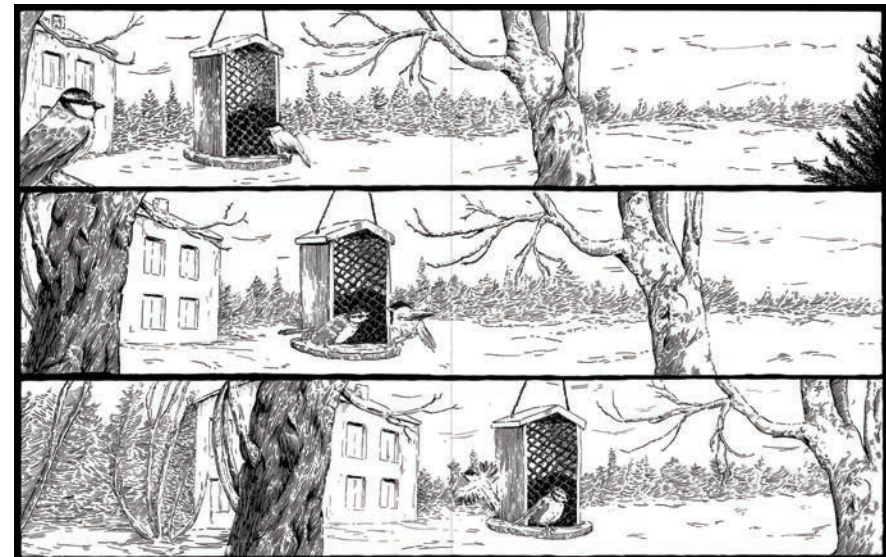
Meža meitene Maija by Viesturs Ķerus
 Illustrations by Didzis Upens
 7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 64 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-32-0

The Annual Prize for Literature 2020,
 International Jānis Baltviķis Prize in Children's
 Literature and Book Art for the best debut 2020

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English translation available

Maija and her family live in an old ranger's house in the forest. She goes for walks and expeditions with her ornithologist father, who tells her stories about birds, introduces her to wild animals, and explains natural processes, making every day an adventure and proving that nature can be an endless source of activities and excitement.

growing up in nature — forest — ornithology — slow living — relationship with father





A BOY AND HIS DOG. THE STORY OF AN UNTOLD SECRET

Puika ar suni. Stāsts par nosargātu noslēpumu by Inese Zandere
Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
9+ | softcover | 14.8x21 cm | 80 pages | 112 pages
ISBN 978-9934-533-95-2;
ISBN 978-9934-574-03-0



National Design Award of Latvia 2018, Festival of creative excellence ADWARDS 2021

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian
English sample translation available

This novel about a young boy, living through the Nazi occupation of Latvia, is based on true events that took place in Riga during the Second World War. His father Žanis Lipke is known for saving the lives of at least 55 Jewish people. The emotionally charged story, told from the point of view of young Zigis, looks at his challenging experience through the prism of war and the incredible courage of his parents.

Zigis is only eight years old when he witnesses his father hiding Jewish people from the Nazi regime and cannot yet fully comprehend the events that are happening around him. As he grows older and understands more, Zigis takes an active role in his family's efforts to help Jews escape the Nazis as he helps dig the hiding place, learns to warn about danger, and gets to know the people staying in the bunker. It is difficult for them to endure the cramped conditions and uncertainty and for Zigis to keep the dangerous secret while trying to find answers to complex questions about human nature and morality.

The design recalls the books that little Zigis would have read in his childhood — wartime publications with simple soft covers. This feeling of the past is reinforced by a forgotten technique of bookbinding — readers have to cut the book's pages open themselves.

Holocaust — WWII — coming of age — compassion — courage — companionship — fearing for one's life



WHO'S AFRAID OF DAYCARE?

Bīstamais dārziņš by Zane Volkinšteine
Illustrations by Zane Zlemeša
7+ | hardcover | 16.5x21 cm | 64 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-70-2

Foreign rights: All languages available
English sample translation available

Little Bruno is about to start daycare but worries that he will not like it there. His big sister Etta tries to encourage him by telling stories about her daycare adventures even though her fascinating tales are not entirely believable. This book truly celebrates creative story-telling as Etta blends memories with her wild imagination that feature a real-life giraffe, a family of squirrels, and a secret passage under the floorboards.

siblings — starting daycare — overcoming insecurity — make-believe — creative storytelling — read aloud book





BIRDS WATCH US TOO

Putni mūs redz by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Aleksandra Runde
 5+ | hardcover | 17x24 cm | 56 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-80-1

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

We often hear of birdwatching, but birds watch humans too! This collection of 41 poems represents many bird species in different environments — river, garden, meadow, sea, and forest. The personal connection with the poet is ever-present, as she playfully depicts the scenes so children can identify with the main heroes — the birds. The combination of atmospheric poems with beautifully stylised illustrations makes this book a treat for readers of all ages.

bird species — varied natural environments — observation — contemporary poetry



ALL BETTER!

Lize Analize un citi slimnīcas skaitāmpanti
 by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
 5+ | hardcover | 21x21 cm | 32 pages
 ISBN 978-9984-820-46-0

The Annual Prize for Literature 2013, The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2013, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2013

Foreign rights sold: Estonian, English, Spanish
 English translation available

This poetry collection offers a different view on unpleasant yet relatable things like having a fever, seeing a doctor, going for a blood test, or staying at a hospital. The colourful and humorous illustrations create a safe and fun environment, emphasising the element of playfulness in the poems.

medical procedures — doctor visits — hospital stays — overcoming fear — rhyming poetry





THE UNIVERSE ABOVE THE ATTIC

Kosmoss ir virs bērniņiem by Linda Gabarajeva
 Illustrations by Kristīne Martinova
 7+ | hardcover | 15.5x24 cm | 56 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-99-3

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

This collection of poems reflects on the colourful and wondrous nature of childhood, where the world is there for children to smell, hear, touch, and feel. Parents — their exhaustion and fear, but also their genuine amazement at their children — are ever-present witnesses. The characters and metaphors arise from real-life references, and the energetic and saturated illustrations reaffirm the poet's observations and the power of imagination.

childhood — parenthood — home environment — contemporary poetry



RUCKUS

Jandāliņš by Kārlis Vērdiņš
 Illustrations by Lote Vilma Vītiņa
 7+ | hardcover | 12x24 cm | 84 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-633-02-7

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English sample translation available

Young children are the main characters of this poetry collection and completely take over their parents' lives, making them love and worry, play and delight, as they discover the world together. The family relationships are captured in a way that is sure to make children laugh — and adults smile — as they identify with the characters. A tired mum who sings in the shower and escapes the real world in a video game, a dad who hovers over his child like a helicopter, and a newborn baby that everyone stares at adoringly even as it shrieks and cries are some of the characters the author uses to explore issues in nuclear families and society at large.

modern family life — daily routines — gender roles — wordplay — humour and irony





THE BOOK OF CLOUDS

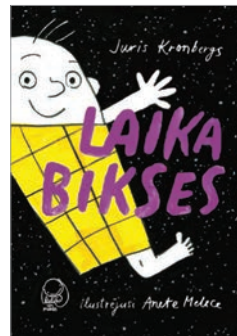
Mākoņu grāmata by Juris Kronbergs
 Illustrations by Anete Melece
 7+ | flexi-cover | 14.8x21 cm | 64 pages
 ISBN 978-9984-820-27-9

International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's
 Literature and Book Art 2011 (the Special Jury's Award)

Foreign rights sold: Korean, English (UK), Spanish (World)
 English translation available

Essentially a collection of a cloud watcher's notes, this poetry collection looks at the habits, character, roles, and thoughts of clouds which are often very similar to those of humans. Working with a blend of scientific research and vivid fantasy, the author reminds us that what we see in the sky depends on how we see ourselves.

types of clouds — cloud watching — personification — contemporary poetry



TIME'S TROUSERS — A BOOK OF TIME

Laika bikses by Juris Kronbergs
 Illustrations by Anete Melece
 7+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 80 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-31-3

Foreign rights sold: Korean
 English translation available

In this work, the author directs his attention towards time, portraying it as a living being that has various habits and human characteristics. A child's desire to speed up the flow of time meets an adult's fear of time. Along with the poems, the book contains aphorisms, puns, and jokes that help keep the book's rhythm lively and imaginative.

the concept of time — the passage of time — word play — contemporary poetry





THE TALKING DOGS

Runājošie suņi by Elina Brasliņa
Based on an animated feature film by Edmunds Jansons
6+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 64 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-23-8

The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2019, White Ravens 2020 collection

Foreign rights sold: French (World), German, Italian
English translation available

A story of two children — Jacob and Mimmi — who join forces with a horde of talking dogs to save their community from a wealthy developer and his plan to convert their cosy neighbourhood into a district of faceless glass skyscrapers. The book is based on the feature animation film *Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs* and depicts a real-life suburb of Riga that is known for its authentic wooden buildings. As well as being packed full of thrilling action, this tale reminds us about the real meaning of friendship, teamwork, and staying true to our values.

talking dogs — summer holidays — life in the suburbs — community values — urban conservation — heroism

The feature animated film *Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs* (2019) was directed by Edmunds Jansons (Atom Art, Latvia) and co-produced by Letko (Poland). The film is 70 minutes long. It has been selected for more than 75 festivals and also included in the programme 'Latvian Films for the Latvian Centenary'. The film was shortlisted for the annual Frankfurter Buchmesse Film Awards programme to honour film and book adaptations about the industry, for the Adaptation for Children or Young Adults category.

The trailer on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/255521508>

The film has been sold to France, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain.



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

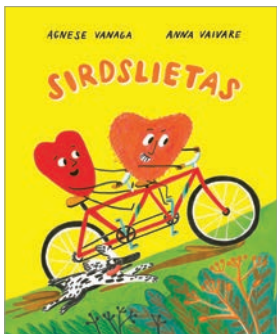
Es tevi gaidīju by Maira Dobele
Illustrations by Rebeka Lukošus
Crossover | hardcover | 19.4x25 cm | 48 pages
ISBN 978-9934-633-12-6

Foreign rights: All languages available
English translation available

Is it fair to wait for someone every day? How long is too long to wait? And why does a human get to decide that? Sponge — the dog in this story — often has to wait for his caregiver — an elderly lady named Vilma — to come home. Their relationship structures and gives meaning to both of their lives. The reader is invited to see simple life situations from a dog's point of view while being reminded that pets — just like humans — need empathy, care, and a safe environment.

animal companions — the inner world of dogs — empathy — mutual caring — the intrinsic value of a pet





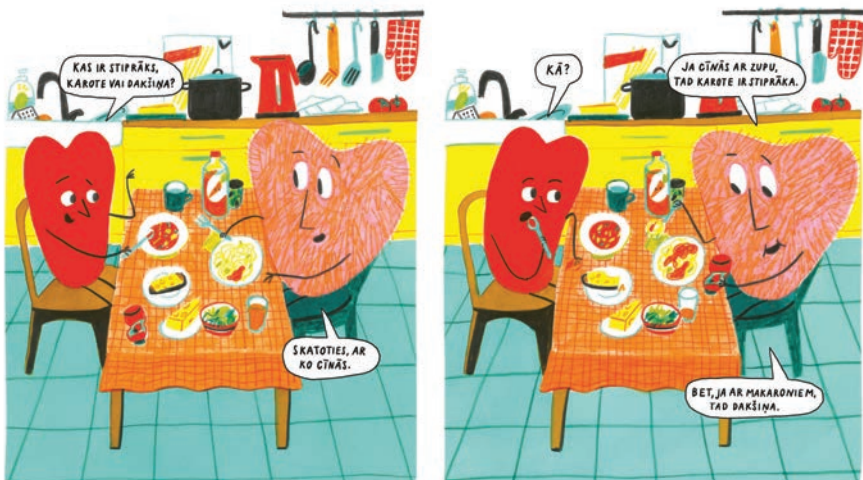
HEART-TO-HEART

Sirdslietas by Agnese Vanaga
Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
7+ | softcover with flaps | 17.8x22.5 cm | 64 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-98-6

Foreign rights sold: Czech, Greek
English translation available

This comic is about two playful hearts with different personalities. By playing games, squabbling, caring for, and sometimes annoying each other, they strive to become kind and good-hearted individuals. The author and the illustrator have taken inspiration from the legendary 'Love is...' cartoons to create heart-warming and amusing comic strips that look at relationship issues and explain the importance of getting along.

best friends — relationship challenges — cohabiting — kindness — conflict resolution



THE WATER TOWER

Ūdenstornis by Lote Vilma Vitiņa
12+ | softcover | 13x19 cm | 128 pages
ISBN 978-9934-574-54-2

The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2021

Foreign rights: All languages available
English translation available

An intimate look at the everyday world of the main character, a teenage girl, that consists of small town life, school, and a water tower. The tower comes from her imagination. It's a refuge and hiding place where anything can happen — she can talk to birds and her favourite writers or even pat a tiny blue horse. Short texts consisting of stories and poems, along with illustrations and comic strips, let the reader step into the girl's inner world as she deals with small-town boredom, a family that still treats her like a child, school with its confusing tasks, and also meeting someone who has created a 'water tower' of their own.

coming of age — teenage angst — small town life — escapism — solitude — contemporary outlook — #iamintrovert



picture books



LET'S DRAW A STORY!

Uzzīmēsim stāstu by **Elina Brasliņa**
3+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 40 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available
English translation available

This picture book explores storytelling as a shared experience by posing and answering a series of questions like “how does it start?”, “what happens next?”, and “is there a happy ending?”. It follows a parent and a child who work together to create a narrative and draw pictures to illustrate it. It’s a book for — and about — children who, rather than settling down to listen to a story, actively want to shape it.

creative storytelling — drawing — relationship with mum — role play



THE TRAVELLING TRUNK

Čemodāns ceļotājs by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations by **Anete Melece**
3+ | hardcover | 29x18 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available
English translation available

A suitcase with secret contents falls out of a flying airplane. It survives its tumble and escapes drowning in the ocean, falling into a volcano, getting lost in a jungle, and freezing in a glacier. The author uses fantasy and the repetitive form of a poem to add to the suspense as the suitcase’s mysterious contents are revealed at the end — it has brought migratory birds back home from the south.

travel — around the world — rhyming text — allegory — suspense — imagination — riddle — migratory birds



picture books

early reader



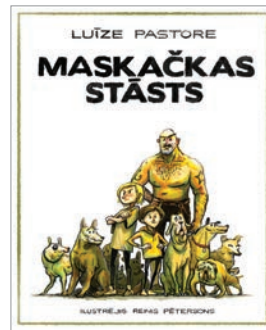
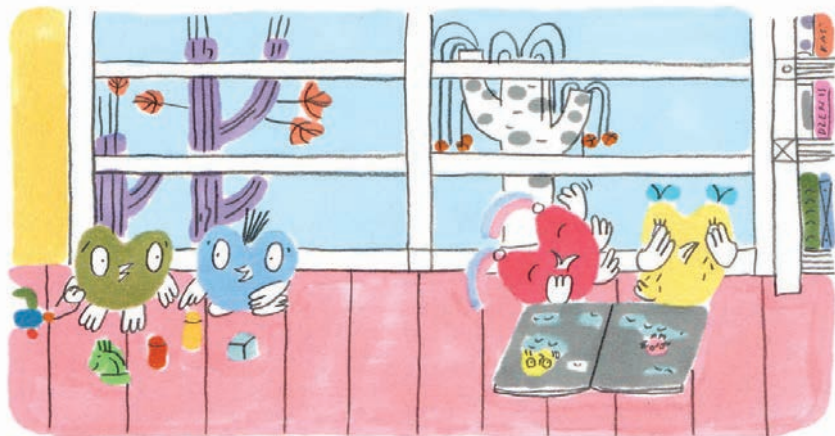
DOES A BOOK HAVE A BEAK?

Vai grāmatai ir knābis? by Inese Zandere
 Illustrations by Rūta Briede
 Published by the Latvian National Library Foundation
 3+ | hardcover | 18.5x24 cm | 56 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-9161-0-6

Foreign rights: All languages available
 English translation available

The main protagonist — Elmer the Baby Owl, his friends, and the wise Library Owl are book explorers. By learning letters and illustrating made-up stories, they discover which door to use to enter a book, how pictures can support words, and that books, in fact, do not have beaks. This book was created for 'Book Start' — the National Library of Latvia reading promotion programme for young children.

storytelling — illustration — wordplay — libraries — curiosity — creative play with a book as an object



DOG TOWN

Maskačkas stāsts by Luīze Pastore
 Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
 Published by Neputns
 7+ | hardcover | 21x26 cm | 128 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-512-08-7

The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2014

Foreign rights sold: English, Italian

Strange things are afoot in the suburbs, where Jacob has to spend his summer holidays. With his grumpy cousin Mimi and a gang of stray dogs, they have to fight tooth and paw and stop evil Skylar Scrapper's scheme to transform the suburb into a concrete jungle.

talking dogs — summer holidays — life in the suburbs — community values — urban conservation — independent girl protagonist



chapter books



BICKI-BUCK BOOKS

Bikibuks by various authors and illustrators
Design by **Rūta Briede** and **Artis Briedis**
+2 | stapled, paperback | 10.5x14.5 cm | 20-32 pages

Foreign rights sold: English world rights for #1, #16, #20, #21, #28, #30, #39, #40, #62, #65, #89, #90

A series of 101 postcard-sized poetry picture books.

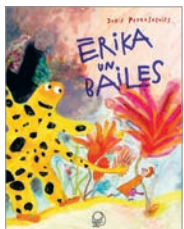


ONE HOUSE FOR ALL

Trīs draugi vienas upes krastā by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations by **Juris Petraškevičs**
4+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights sold: English (excluding North America)

A picture book about friendship and compromises.



ERICA AND HER FEARS

Ērika un bailes by **Juris Petraškevičs**
4+ | hardcover | 21x28 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights sold: Korean

A picture book about emotions and fear of thunderstorms.



WHITE BEAR'S COOKING ADVENTURES

Baltais lācis. Pasaku pavārgrāmata bērniem
Illustrations by **Māra Viška**
Text by **Uldis Daugaviņš**
Recipes by **Mārtiņš Sirmāis**
5+ | hardcover | 22.5x29.7 cm | 40 pages

Foreign rights sold: German, Russian, Lithuanian, Simplified Chinese (Mainland China only), Complex Chinese Characters (excluding Mainland China)

An adventure story follows a bear with six paws on his journey, with each page featuring a simple yet exciting food recipe that children can prepare by themselves.

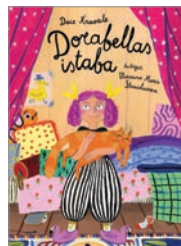


PIGTAIL AND MR. SLEEPLESSNESS

Bize un Neguļa based on an animated film by **Edmunds Jansons**
Illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**
4+ | hardcover | 21x27 cm | 32 pages

Foreign rights sold: Macedonian

A story about a family that welcomes a new baby at Christmastime.



DORABELLE'S ROOM

Dorabellas istaba by **Dace Kravale**
Illustrations by **Vivianna Maria Stanislavska**
7+ | hardcover | 15x21 cm | 60 pages

Foreign rights sold: Arabic (World)

Dorabelle discovers that vintage items in her room talk and have fantastic stories to tell.



CAN THE BACK ROW HEAR ME?

Vai otrā grupa mani dzird? by **Inga Gaile**
Illustrations by **Anete Melece**
5+ | hardcover | 18.4x24 cm | 64 pages

Foreign rights sold: All languages available

A poetry book about a family's everyday life.



HOW THE SHAMMIES LEARNED

Kā Lupatiņi mācījās
Exercises adapted by **Maira Dobele**
Illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**
3+ | hardcover | 20x23 cm | 32 pages
Talking pen

Foreign rights: All languages available, except Estonian

The Shammies is an animated cross-media project for preschool children that consists of short films, web episodes, and published books. The series *How the Shammies Learned* features five interactive picture books children can explore with a special assistant — a talking pen.



FIRST TIME ON EARTH

Pirmo reizi uz Zemes by Inga Žolude
Illustrations by Krišs Salmanis
8+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 96 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

Set against a background of cosmic exploration, scientific inquiry, and technology, this book is suitable for readers who are searching for something more than merely an entertaining story.

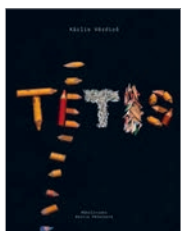


MUM POEMS

Mammas dzejoļi by Ērika Bērziņa
Illustrations by Anna Vaivare
5+ | hardcover | 18.4x24 cm | 56 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

A poetry collection that explores how the lives of a family can be seen as a game in which the rules are constantly changing as the children grow up.

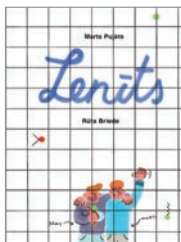


DADDY

Tētis by Kārlis Vērdiņš
Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons
6+ | hardcover | 19x25 cm | 64 pages

Foreign rights sold: Spanish

Poems about dads — a caring dad who stays at home with his child while mum is away at work, a dad who makes false promises, an aggressive driver dad, and a hero dad who saves the day.



ZENITH

Zenīts by Marts Pujāts
Illustrations by Rūta Briede
7+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | 48 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

This poetry collection has a heartfelt message about music school experiences.



THE WICKED

Netikumīgie by Luīze Marija Meļķe, Kirils Ēcis, Raimonds Kiršis, Agnese Krivade, Kārlis Vērdiņš
Illustrations by Agate Lielpētere, Liāna Mihailova, Sanita Adoviča, Pauls Rietums
14+ | softcover | 12x17 cm | 100 pages

Foreign rights: All languages available

This poetry book addresses and supports teenagers' natural spirit of rebelliousness and their desire to change the world by offering art and poetry as the heart of understanding freedom and seeing social action as a form of realising it.



THE SCHOOL OF LIVING WRONG

Nepareizas dzīves skola by Maira Dobeļe
Illustrations by Anete Melece
9+ | hardcover | 17.5x23.5 cm | 112 pages

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian

This book comprises nine stories dealing with the daily catastrophe-filled life of a teenage girl named Mētra and her journey of self-discovery.



GHOST STORY TRILOGY

A WALK IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD
THREE DEATHS ON HALLOWEEN
THE RAIN OF BLOOD

by Māris Rungulis
Illustrations by Kristians Brekte
10+ | hardcover | 14.8x21 cm | pages 128; 144; 160

Foreign rights: All languages available

Māris Rungulis has been collecting horror stories that children delight in sharing with each other since the mid-eighties. Now Māris has combined them into a book about the children themselves.

Liels un Mazs has successfully participated in the international circulation of children's literature by obtaining EU Creative Europe funding and running our project 'Children's Europe' (*Bērnu Eiropa*, in Latvian) for over ten years. We are equally interested in both 'big' and 'small' languages and encourage translators to focus on the 'small' ones. Thanks to the support of this grant programme, we have published books in more than ten languages: Estonian, Lithuanian, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Polish, Czech, Dutch, Portuguese, German, Spanish, and French.



Romana Romanišins,
Андрій Лесів
**ГОЛОШО, ТИХО,
ПОШЕПКИ**
(Ukraine)



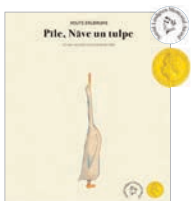
Romana Romanišins,
Андрій Лесів
Я ТАК БАЧУ
(Ukraine)



Romana Romanišins,
Андрій Лесів
**ВІЙНА, ЩО ЗМІНИЛА
РОНДО**
(Ukraine)



Lene Ask,
Mari Kanstid Johnson
D FOR TIGER
(Norway)



Wolf Erlbruch
ENTE, TOD UND TULPE
(Germany)



Kitty Crowther
**JE VEUX UN CHIEN ET
PEU IMPORTE LEQUEL**
(Belgium)



Elisabeth Steinkellner,
Anna Gusella
PAPIER KLAVIER
(Germany)



Olga Černá,
Alžběta Skálová
KLÁRKA A 11 BABIČEK
(Czech Republic)



Aino Pervik
KUNKSMOOR
Latvian edition illustrated
by Aleksandra Runde
(Estonia)



Maria Parr
TONJE GLIMMERDAL
Latvian edition illustrated
by Reinis Pētersons
(Norway)



Janosch
**ACH, SO SCHÖN IST
PANAMA**
(Germany)



Ulf Stark,
Linda Bondestam
**DJUR SOM
INGEN SETT UTOM VI**
(Sweden)



Erlend Loe,
Kim Hiorthøy
**HVEM RUMPET
BRUNOSTEN**
(Norway)



Edward van de Vendel,
Anoush Elman,
Annet Schaap
MISJKA
(Netherlands)



Indrek Koff,
Elina Sildre
KUHU LAPSED SAID
(Estonia)



José Jorge Letria,
André Letria
A GUERRA
(Portugal)



Edward van de Vendel
**DE DAGEN VAN DE
BLUEGRASSLIEFDES**
Cover illustration by
Elina Brasliņa
(Netherlands)



Shaun Tan
**TALES FROM OUTER
SUBURBIA**
(Australia)



Sven Nordquist
**NÄR FINDUS VAR
LITEN OCH FÖRSVANN**
(Sweden)



Tove Jansson
HUR GICK DET SEN?
(Finland)



Mikołaj Łoziński,
Janek Koza
PREZENT DLA DWOJGA
(Poland)



Toon Tellegen,
Marc Boutavant
**IS ER DAN
NIEMAND BOOS**
(Netherlands)



Mawil
KINDERLAND
(Germany)



Anouk Ricard
ANNA ET FROGA
(France)



Carll Norac, Carll Cneut
**O MONSTER,
EET MIJ NIET OP**
(Belgium)



Kristin Roskifte
ALLE SAMMEN TELLER
(Norway)



Jacques Vriens
**ACHTSTE-GROEPERS
HUILEN NIET**
Latvian edition illustrated
by Edmunds Jansons
(Netherlands)



Jurga Vilė,
Lina Itagaki
SIBIRO HAIKU
(Lithuania)

READ MORE ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS



Inese Zandere (1958) is our national treasure and writes poems that children read, sing, and memorise. Her work is lyrical and cheerful but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. She has recently turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children.



Anete Melece (1983) works in Latvia and Switzerland in illustration, comics, and animation. She is a witty observer of small, mundane details and offers a daring visual narrative to the story. Anete is one of Latvia's most successful and talented illustrators, and has also proven herself as a writer.



Daina Tabūna (1985) is a fiction writer whose short stories have been published since 2000. Her debut in literature was a short story collection, *Pirmā reize* (The First Time), a brilliant contemporary coming-of-age book addressing the sensitive issues involved in acquiring experience and forming a personality. Recently, she has been nominated for The EU Prize for Literature for her novel *Witches*.



Agate Lielpētere (1995) is a visual artist and illustrator who manoeuvres through various illustration techniques, selecting one that suits the story. Her work can be described as diverse and witty, bordering on ironic. She has illustrated 6 children's books in the last couple of years, created comics, and participated in local and international illustration exhibitions.



Signe Viška (1997), author and translator, studied German language and literature and debuted in children's literature in 2021. There is a good chance that nine out of ten of Signe's stories will have a grandpa in them. She appreciates the warmth of the simple things in life and the people around her and tries to reflect this in her work. With almost 10 translated books to her credit and several more in the pipeline, she introduces Latvian readers to outstanding works of German literature for children and young adults.



Juris Kronbergs [1946 - 2020] wrote poetry in Latvian and Swedish, built a solid translation link between the Latvian and Swedish cultures, and watched clouds from both sides of the Baltic Sea.



Viesturs Ķerus (1984) is an ornithologist and the head of the Latvian Ornithological Society. As well as being a persistent advocate for birds in the fight against deforestation, Viesturs is an expressive writer who continues the important tradition in Latvian children's literature of scientists writing books to share their knowledge directly with young readers.



Lote Vilma Vitiņa (1993) is an illustrator, artist, and a poet. Her light and spontaneous drawings feature an interplay of simple yet lively lines and a limited colour palette that create emotionally charged figures, images, and characters.



Luīze Pastore (1986) is a determined children's author whose motto is to resist boredom. Her books attract young readers with a vivid imagination and the ability to empathise with how children perceive the world. At the same time, her stories expand the readers' worldview and let children learn about important cultural codes.



Kārlis Vērdiņš (1978) writes for both children and grown-ups and is one of the few authors whose poems demonstrate just how seriously he takes the fact that life is funny and that by taking life so seriously, we are funny too. Vērdiņš's poems inform children of the risks in life while still having a good laugh.



Evija Pintāne (1985) creates works of stage design, graphics, book design, and illustration filled with a poetic and uplifting feeling of freedom, held together tightly by a carefully considered and well-structured foundation.



Maira Dobele (1976) is a children's book author who lives and works in Finland. She holds a master's degree in documentary filmmaking from Aalto University. By using a writing style that combines a great sense of reality and humour, she refers to actual issues faced by children and young adults. Her debut book for young readers, *The School of Living Wrong*, has won the Annual Latvian Literature Award.



Didzis Upens (1991) studied at the Department of Graphic Art at the Art Academy of Latvia. *Maija and the Forest* was his diploma work and his first illustrated book. He used a rapidograph to draw the continuous thin lines, creating a classical, slightly muted visual feeling in his illustrations.



Rūta Briede (1984) illustrates books, draws comics, contributes to puppet theatre productions, and teaches Art Academy of Latvia students. Her ideas, passion, and work as the artistic editor for the picture book series *Bicki-Buck Books* have attracted a new generation of illustrators to children's publishing, given new courage to experienced veterans, and inspired artists to write the text of their own picture books.



Reinis Pētersons (1981) is as fast and brilliant as a rocket: having made his debut in 2007, he was nominated for ALMA in 2012, making several outstanding animation films in the meantime. A strong backbone of his aesthetic brings balance to the great diversity of his techniques: pencil and coal drawing, multi-coloured computer graphics, and fabric appliqué.



Juris Zvirgzdiņš [1941-2023] wrote about travels in space and time. He collected interesting historical facts, legends, funny incidents, and events and created exciting adventures from them.



Mārtiņš Zutis (1988) has a mathematical mind and an irrational imagination, and as an artist, he bridges the space between them. He creates unusual characters that populate his comic books, animation, and illustrations.



Edmunds Jansons (1972) is a successful animation director. His original emotional illustrations enhance the imagery of stories and poems, pushing the boundaries of the written text. The artist creates a magical world of anthropomorphic and geometric beings that is ruled by the universal order of things and human relationships on which a child can safely rely.



Inga Žolude (1984) is an acclaimed Latvian prose writer. Her style changes from book to book, playing by the rules required for each particular story while always maintaining a writer's characteristic balance and the boundary between the possible and impossible. She has won the EU Prize for Literature.



Lauris Gundars (1958) is a playwright, director, and teacher of an entire generation of young playwrights who, since his appearance on the scene, has energised the world of children's literature. The main character of his prose is a wise, just, and determined child who can break stereotypes of the roles of different generations in society and awaken feelings of both courage and responsibility in adults.



Gunta Šnipke (1955) is a poet and an architect whose professional career is closely linked to the seaside city of Liepāja and its historic architecture. Using her clever and precise observations of the world around her, she finds equally clever and precise imagery in her writing while teaching her readers to look, feel, discover, and understand.



Anna Vaivare (1987) is a professional architect and holds a master's degree in printmaking. With her mesmerising choice of colours and impressionistic painting style, Anna Vaivare's art will draw anyone into the world of her picture books. Anything can happen — all you have to do is ask: "Anna, could you draw..."



Elina Brasliņa (1988) is an illustration superstar — quick, precise, and brilliantly talented. She can draw it all — from a black dog at night to a colourful jungle, vividly visualising images that are created in writers' imaginations. Elina always adds unexpected detail to her style, which other illustrators can only shake their heads at and say: "Why didn't I think of that?"



Anete Bajāre-Babčuka (1991) is a Latvian illustrator who has studied sculpture and graphics at the Art Academy of Latvia. She enjoys reading and illustrating books and likes creating illustrations using analogue techniques, such as watercolour and pencil. She uses muted compositions and well-placed features that are just right for the feeling of the story and help the readers engage and identify with the characters.



Rebeka Lukošus (1995) is one of Latvia's rising stars of contemporary illustration. She illustrates children's books, draws comics, is one of the organisers of the zine festival SĀBRS, and is a teacher of illustration. Her graphic style stands out with its minimalist image design, which, in its simplicity and wit, supports the tone of any written text. Sometimes, she likes to turn her drawn characters into sculptures.



Līva Ozola (1991) completed her studies with distinction at the Art Academy of Latvia Department of Graphic Art and quickly made a name for herself in the world of illustration. Līva has a finely tuned and sensitive view of the world, which she expresses in her imaginative visual language.



Vīvianna Maria Stanislavska (1991) is one of the brightest illustrators of the new generation. In 2016, she received the International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art for the best debut. Her artwork is rich in details, bright characters, and visual surprises.



Zane Volkinšteine (1983) is involved in cultural journalism and manages cultural projects. She has co-created a book about Riga's architecture for children and is interested in the contemporary circus. *Who's Afraid of Daycare?* (Bistamais dārziņš) is her debut book for children.



Zane Zlemeša (1988) currently lives in Berlin and is well known for her simple and naive drawing style. Her illustrations have been published in the comic magazines *Kuš!* (Latvia), *Kuti Kuti Magazine* (Finland), *Stipburger* (Slovenia), and others.



Māra Zālīte (1952) writes poetry and prose, works in theatre, and is a well-known cultural figure. She has received many literary awards. For children, she has written a poetry collection and 3 prose books. Her autobiographical novels *Five Fingers* (Pieci pirksti) and *Birds of Paradise* (Paradīzes putni) have been translated into many languages and tell the story of her childhood after her family's return to Latvia from deportation in Siberia.



Ernests Kļaviņš (1977) is well known for his drawings and cartoons in the Latvian press, but his art also extends to painting, animation, computer graphics, sculpture, and experiments with other techniques. Ernests Kļaviņš's children's book illustrations show his talent in using colour and contour, wit and wonder, brightly and colourfully in equal measure.



Agnese Vanaga (1985) shifted from journalism and communications to writing children's books in 2014, recognising that being a serious grown-up wasn't her thing. She has a natural talent for connecting with children and understands the secret language they cherish. She uses this ability to address significant topics through joyful and witty stories.



Egils Zirnīs (1959), a journalist, poet, and a press wit, was a child when he first got obsessed with animals, creating a "Beasts of the World" collection using plasticine. Next came his studies in biology and quite a few years spent as a guide at the Natural History Museum, where his humour and imagination helped him find common ground with the young audience.



Svens Neilands (1984) is an Art Academy of Latvia graduate. Coming from the world of graffiti, he has found his way into printmaking. This talented artist has illustrated one of the poetry picture books in the *Bicki Bucks* series and has worked on several independent book projects. Sven is a witty thinker with a vivid imagination that comes to life in colourful postmodern drawings.



Krista Bitmete (1992) has studied visual arts in Denmark and Latvia. She uses a mix of digital painting and traditional techniques in her illustrations and is excited to find characters, moods, and storylines that fit together and share something new.



Aleksandra Runde (1995) has studied arts in Latvia, Poland, and Italy, specialising in printmaking techniques and illustration. She enjoys expressive brush strokes and delicate pencil lines and seeks new ways to draw hyacinths or air that smells like freshly baked bread. For her diploma book *What to Do if You're Naked in a City* (Ko darīt, ja esi kails pilsētā), she received the BRAW Opera Prima 2024.



Linda Gabarajeva (1992) studied anthropology, theology, and sports pedagogy, honed her literary skills in poetry workshops, and has now turned to studying for a master's degree in printmaking at the Art Academy of Latvia. For her debut poetry collection for adults, *Circles* (Apļi), she received the Ojārs Vācietis Literary Prize in poetry and has been recently nominated for the Annual Latvian Literature Award. An unfiltered authenticity and freshness of intonations characterise Linda's poems for children.



Kristīne Martinova (1993) has studied textile art and printmaking at the Art Academy of Latvia. Her unrestricted flight of imagination defines Kristīne's saturated drawings as she continues to experiment with different visual languages to create engaging and passionate work.



Artis Briedis (1977) is a designer who never gets lost in abstraction but allows the reader to experience the book as a physical object, with its form hinting at the plot and helping to reveal its secrets. Artis is a highly meticulous and sensitive book design professional whose work has often been nominated for national book design prizes.

"Liels un Mazs' sharp eye for high-quality picturebooks is apparent with the projects they originate and the titles they buy from international publishers. It's impressive that a small family-owned publishing house from a small country can make such a large international impact."

Sam McCullen
co-founder of the picturebook platform dPICTUS





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