



marvellous books



Rights
catalogue
2023



Illustration by Rūta Briede



LIELS UN MAZS is an award-winning family-owned children's book publisher founded in 2004, based in Rīga, Latvia. In 2022, we won the Bologna Prize for the Best Children's Publishers of the Year for Europe (BOP). Since the very beginning, our focus has been on publishing contemporary picture books and quality fiction, both by Latvian authors and in translation.

The books published by *Liels un Mazs* create new worlds through their language and visual imagery, and are an excellent way to spend time with children. Our books are bridges between generations to discuss serious, complex topics. These are also books that show the variety of different styles and genres in literature and illustration.

We also publish a great deal of poetry for children, because we love the way poetry plays with language and invites children to play along with it. We publish books to develop children's artistic and literary taste and to enrich their reading experience.

Our list of thoughtfully selected translations includes the best children's authors: Piret Raud, Kristin Roskifte, Maria Parr, Barbro Lindgren, Ulf Stark, Sven Nordqvist, Carll Cneut, Kitty Crowther, Janosch, André Letria, Jacques Vriens, Edward van de Vendel, Andri Snær Magnason, Romana Romanyshyn, Andriy Levin, Shaun Tan, Anouk Ricard, and others.

Since 2014, we have successfully worked in rights selling, and now our books have been translated into Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Swedish, and other languages.

Sam McCullen from the picturebook platform
dPICTUS (dpictus.com):

"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."



Kamoliņš un kastīte BALL IN A BOX

Age 3+

The heroes of this story – round Circle and four-sided Rectangle – play a game. They try to outdo each other as they find their shapes in different objects. They see rectangles and circles everywhere! With them, the reader can also play together, observing, studying and imitating things around them.

by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations
by **Ernests Kļaviņš**

Size 14.5 x 19 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-88-7

Foreign rights:
All languages available

'I'll be a slice of cheese.'
'And I'll be a hole in the cheese!'
But then they see a cat...

shapes, imitation, circle, rectangle, pet, playful learning



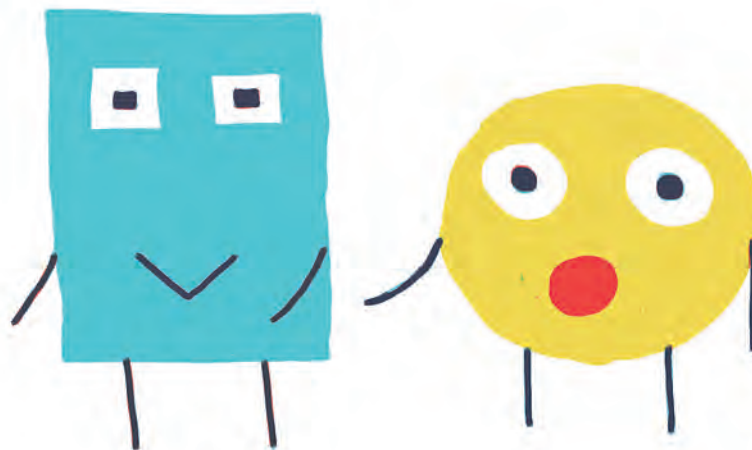
Inese Zandere
(1958)

writes poetry that children read, memorise, sing, and remember. Her work is musical and cheerful, but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. Recently, she has turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children increasingly often.



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.





by **Anete Melece**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 19 x 27 cm
40 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-87-0

Foreign rights sold:
German, Korean, French,
Greek, Macedonian



Anete Melece
(1983)

works in Latvia and Switzerland in graphic art, illustration, comics, and animation. She is a witty observer of tiny mundane details, who offers a daring parallel visual narrative to the story. She is one of the most successful and talented illustrators in Latvia, who has proven herself also as a book author.

Pazudušais miedziņš STELLA'S STOLEN SLEEP



Age 3+

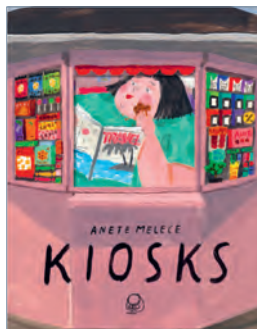
This is a family story about a little girl and about her books, toys, and the sleep helpline that delivers sleep to people. One evening it seems that someone has stolen Stella's sleep. She can't fall asleep even after her dad has read her many bedtime stories. In an effort to help her find her missing sleep, all of Stella's toys become detectives, and they end up discovering it was delivered to a room where none of them dared to look – her mom's office where she was working late that night!

Anete Melece shows the daily challenges that all new parents face – the difficulty of putting a child to sleep at night.

bedtime story, evening routine, humour, toys, detective

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





Kiosks THE KIOSK

5+

For years now, the kiosk has been Olga's workplace and home. She feels like she can't leave it anymore. To distract herself, she reads travel magazines and dreams of being far away. One day something strange happens that sets her off on her journey. *The Kiosk* is a book about human nature and all its hopes and glories, dreams and disappointments.

by **Anete Melece**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 21 x 28 cm
40 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-10-8

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



Anete Melece
(1983)

works in Latvia and Switzerland in graphic art, illustration, comics, and animation. She is a witty observer of tiny mundane details, who offers a daring parallel visual narrative to the story. She is one of the most successful and talented illustrators in Latvia, who has proven herself also as a book author.

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* pick for 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 Pan Award 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

dreams, urban life, sunset, travel, animation



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)

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

The Kiosk on YouTube:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Om0fNxpOxqk>





Ineses māja A HOUSE FOR INES



Age 5+

Both authors of this book – a poet and an illustrator – are also professional architects. Their light-hearted picture book – which contains much to discover – tells the story of a house and the architect whom Ines, the main character of the poem, asks to draw its blueprints. Ines as well as many readers have the impression that an architect just sits down at a desk and ‘draws a house’, showing how it should look so that the builders can get to work building it. But in the poem and illustrations we learn that it’s not at all that simple!

by **Gunta Šnipke**
Illustrations
by **Anna Vaivare**

Size 20 x 23 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-74-0

Foreign rights:
All languages available

- # architecture, creative industries, dream house, family and friends, imagination
- 🏆 Festival of creative excellence ADWARDS 2022, selected for 100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2023 by dPictus



Gunta Šnipke
(1955)

is not only a poet, but also an architect whose professional career is closely linked to the port city of Liepāja and its historic architecture. She has published three poetry collections for adults and two books for children. Using her clever and precise observations of the world around her, she finds equally clever and precise imagery in her writing, while also teaching her readers to look, feel, discover, and understand.



Anna Vaivare
(1987)

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, you only have to ask: ‘Anna, could you draw...’





Zirgā RIDING HIGH

Age 3+

This imaginative picture book tells a story of a boy learning to play the piano. One may think this is a long and boring journey, but it turns out to be the most exciting adventure in the world, as this little boy's imagination runs wild.

by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations
by **Anna Vaivare**

Size 20 x 23 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-533-94-5

Foreign rights sold:
Estonian, Arabic (World)

piano, horseplay, wild imagination, power of music

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



Inese Zandere
(1958)

writes poetry that children read, memorise, sing, and remember. Her work is musical and cheerful, but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. Recently, she has turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children increasingly often.



Anna Vaivare
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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, you only have to ask: 'Anna, could you draw...'





by **Signe Viška**
Illustrations
by **Elīna Brasliņa**

Size 21 x 28 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-63-4

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



Signe Viška
(1997)

has recently debuted in children's literature and translation. There is a great possibility that nine out of ten of Signe's stories will have a grandpa in it. She appreciates the warmth of the simple things in life and the people around her and she tries to reflect this in her works. Signe always has a pun ready and some lemon candy in her pocket.



Elīna 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 that up until now has only lived in an author's imagination. Elīna always adds unexpected flourishes to her handwriting, which other illustrators only shake their heads at and say: 'Why didn't I think of that?'

Kate, kas gribēja kļūt par vectēvu KATE, THE GIRL WHO WANTED TO BECOME A GRANDFATHER



Age 5+

Kate, the Girl who Wanted to Become a Grandfather is a story about enthusiastic and determined Kate and her grandfather. Little Kate is quick to act and make her spontaneous ideas come alive. Grandfather, though, knows how to live calmly and quietly, and keep his life the way he likes it. Kate also wants to try living in her grandfather's world and finds fun and humorous ways to be like him — at least on the outside.

- # importance of grandparents, generations, creativity, humour
- 🏆 Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2022





by **Rebeka Lukošus**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 23 x 20 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-66-5

Foreign rights sold:
Arabic (World), Korean

Nepaklausīgais vectēvs REBELLIOUS GRANDPA



Age 5+

Today is an important day for grandpa – it's his 80th birthday! His whole life he only did 'what's right' and what others told him to do – when he was a child, it was his parents, later in life his wife and daughters, and now his grandchildren. He never rebelled. But today he wants to break free from his routines and rules, and try every 'forbidden fruit' – to drive a car again, go wherever the road takes him, stroll on the seaside as long as he wants, eat unhealthy food, and dye his grey hair completely black! With light and non-didactic humour Rebeka Lukošus lets grandpa do whatever he wants until he starts missing his family and returns home to his loved ones. This book helps develop empathy between generations and offers a warm and witty look at the struggle children also face in their own relationships between balancing independence and adjusting to others' needs.

- # birthday, generations, fulfilling dreams, humour
- 🏆 Selected for the BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2022



Rebeka Lukošus
(1995)

is one of the rising stars of contemporary illustration in Latvia. Her graphic style stands out with its minimalistic image design, which supports the tone of any written text with its simplicity and wit.





by **Mārtiņš Zutis**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 20 x 23 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-533-24-2

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

Nenotikušais atklājums THE DISCOVERY THAT NEVER WAS

Age 4+

Naturalist Karl Darwin walks to the letterbox hoping the new science magazine about the magical three-legged raven has come. A snake has gotten into his boot, so he has to hop on one leg. He walks back and sees the footprints of a one-legged creature. He follows the trail, but finds only more footprints. Karl wonders if a ten-legged alien or five bandits made them, but decides to leave this mystery unsolved, so that just means the reader can have all the fun of getting to the bottom of things!

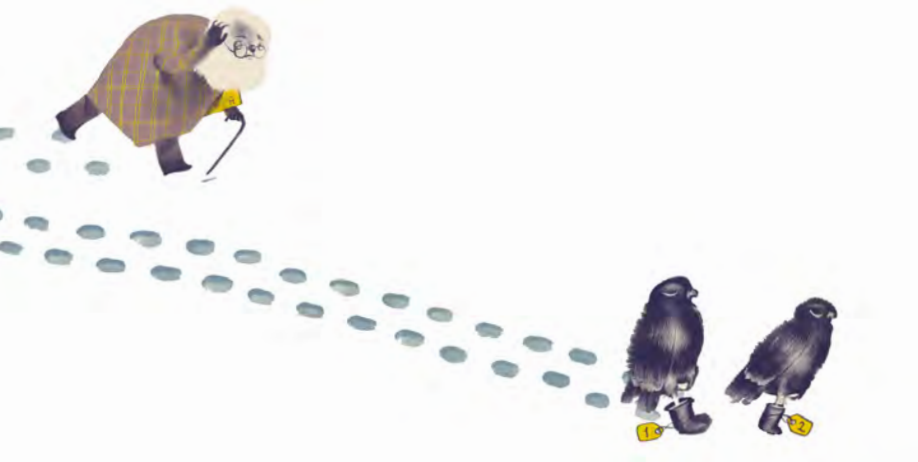
maths, winter, imagination, humour

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



Mārtiņš Zutis
(1988)

has an exact mind, an irrational imagination, and is the master of the fine line between them. His mind and imagination create the unusual characters that populate his comic books, animation, and illustrations.





Kaiju karalienes noslēpums THE QUEEN OF SEAGULLS

Crossover

Renata lives in a city where seagulls disturb the quiet life she wants. To ruin the lives of the birds, she picks up the gulls' food in the yard and eats it for lunch. She writes complaints to the city council, but never gets any answer. And then a neighbour with a love for seagulls arrives in Renata's already difficult life. Why does she have to suffer so much? The answer is on a rocky island, far out at sea in a place where the sun never sets.

poetic love story, self-discovery, birds

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

by **Rūta Briede**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 18 x 14 cm
44 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-533-80-8

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



Rūta Briede a.k.a. R.B.
(1984)

illustrates books, draws comics, contributes to puppet theatre productions, and teaches students at the Latvian Academy of Art. 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.





Eju meklēt! READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!

Age 3+

Hide-and-seek is a game children probably love to play no matter where in the world they live. Imagination plays an active part in figuring out just the right hiding place and also knowing where to look when it comes time to be the one to go searching. This book is about a little girl named Vilma who is playing hide-and-seek with her dad, and on each page the reader can open little doors and see who is hiding behind them.

imagination, family, playing, hide-and-seek

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

by **Līva Ozola**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 27 x 27 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-20-7

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



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 visual language using her rich imagination.





by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations
by **Anete Bajāre-Babčuka**

Size 15 x 21 cm
40 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-64-1

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English translation available

Divas Almas TWO ALMAS

Age 5+

There are no boundaries between reality and imagination in little Alma's life. She spends her summer holidays in a village in the countryside. One day by the small cemetery, where funerals take place from time to time, Alma hears the words: 'Our Alma has died. We will not see her again!' and imagines that she is dead. Does she cast a reflection in the mirror? Does anyone still see her? Imagination helps Alma believe her 'invisibility,' but the cat's scratch marks make her feel alive at the same time. Alma tries to understand the difference between the living and the dead, keeping people who have passed away in loving memory, and also the relationship with one's own name. The author uses light humour to write about these important matters in which seriousness and a smile are inseparable.

imagination, countryside living, death, conversations between generations



Inese Zandere
(1958)

writes poetry that children read, memorise, sing, and remember. Her work is musical and cheerful, but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. Recently, she has turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children increasingly often.



Anete Bajāre-Babčuka
(1991)

Using muted compositions and well-placed features that are just right for the time and feeling of a story, Anete creates illustrations that make the reader feel they are in the story themselves and helps them identify with its characters.





by **Dace Kravale**
Illustrations by
Vivianna Maria Stanislavska

Size 15 x 21 cm
60 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-29-0

Foreign rights sold: Arabic (World)
English translation available

Dorabellas istaba DORABELLE'S ROOM

Age 7+

Every inhabitant of this room can speak and tell Dorabelle all about their adventures. She draws pictures of the wise, old Persian rug, a couple of night lights deeply in love, the prim and proper chest of drawers, the kind bed and canopy, and the closet built by her grandfather and filled with mischievous dresses. When her godmother comes to visit, the room transforms into a lively and joyous art exhibition.

family heritage, friendship, art, antique furniture



Dace Kravale
(1979)

is a music teacher and songwriter. Her librettos and choreography are inspired by the personification of the object and natural phenomena characteristic of fairy tales, which turn children's everyday environment into play and experience. *Dorabella's Room* is her debut book. She dedicated it to her four children.



Vivianna 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.





by **Juris Zvirgzdiņš**
 Illustrations
Mārtiņš Zutis

Size 16 x 20 cm
 48 pages, hardcover
 ISBN 978-9934-574-52-8

Foreign rights:
 All languages available
 English translation available

Kapteiņa zirzdiņš THE CAPTAIN'S LITTLE HORSE

Age 5+

The main character of this book is a red wooden toy horse given to a boy who gradually grows apart from it as he gets older. The boy had always dreamt of the sea and the red wooden horse had been the keeper of those dreams, so when the boy leaves home, goes to sea, and becomes a ship's captain – it was destiny for them to meet again. The red wooden horse is like a tiny messenger, a link between dreams and adulthood, between a father and daughter, between opposing shores where grandparents and their grandchildren live. This story is simple and heartfelt and connects with children's innate ability to think of toys as living beings.

toys, childhood memories, adventures, sea



Juris Zvirgzdiņš

(1941)

writes about travels in space and time. He collects interesting historical facts, legends, funny incidents and events, and builds exciting adventures out of them.

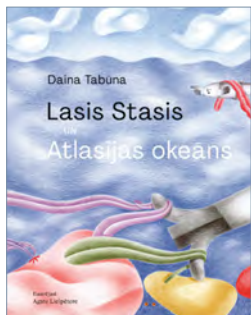


Mārtiņš Zutis

(1988)

has an exact mind, an irrational imagination, and is the master of the fine line between them. His mind and imagination create the unusual characters that populate his comic books, animation, and illustrations.





by **Daina Tabūna**
Illustrations by
Agate Lielpētere

Size 16.5 x 21 cm
72 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-86-3

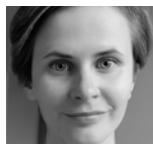
Foreign rights:
All languages available
English sample translation
available

Lasis Stasis un Atlasijas okeāns SALMON SAMMY AND THE OCEAN

Age 7+

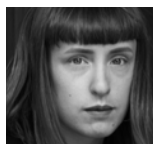
This fascinating story provides essential knowledge about natural phenomena, presented in a 'humanized' way. It is a coming-of-age story of a salmon boy called Sammy. He is born in the Baltic Sea, but as he hears about the big ocean, he dreams of going there. The little fish imagines it as a world of 'real heroes,' where everything is much better, and everyone is far superior to 'ordinary' salmon. Alone, the little salmon sets off on a journey full of dangers. After escaping an attack by a band of porpoises, he ends up in the North Sea. A salmon girl descended from ocean salmon, Judy, joins him. The long and difficult swim is successful. But in reality, things in the ocean are very different from what they were supposed to be; salmon are just salmon there, with their good and bad qualities, including arrogance and a dislike of strangers. Sammy's greatest fear turns out to be returning to his native river.

ocean, Baltic Sea, ecology, nature, life cycle of salmon, friendship



Daina Tabūna
(1985)

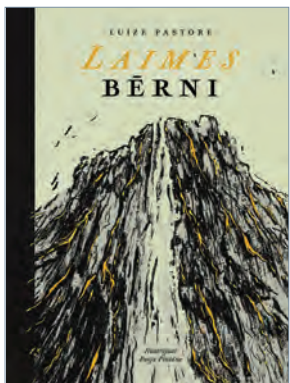
is a prose writer, and her short stories have been published in numerous Latvian publications since 2000. Daina Tabūna's short story collection *Pirmā reize* (The First Time) was shortlisted for the Annual Latvian Literature Award in 2015 as the best debut of the year. It is a brilliant contemporary coming-of-age book addressing the sensitive issues involved in acquiring experience and forming a personality.



Agate Lielpētere
(1995)

is a visual artist and illustrator who manoeuvres through various illustration techniques, fetching one that suits the given text and avoiding boredom in the creative process. Her work can be described as diverse and witty, bordering on ironic. In the last couple of years, she has illustrated 5 children's books.





by **Luīze Pastore**
Illustrations
by **Evija Pintāne**

Size 148 x 210 cm
176 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-65-8

Foreign rights sold:
Italian, Polish
English sample translation
available

Laimes bērni THE LAIME CHILDREN



Age 9+

For this exciting adventure story about a person's ability to coexist with the jungle, the damaging consequences of greed, and a belief in the impossible, the author drew inspiration from the life story of famous Latvian-born explorer Aleksandrs Laime (1911 – 1994), who lived in the jungles of Venezuela. The main characters are a girl called Chalk, her little brother, and a Swedish journalist Lise. Laime invites journalists to go on an expedition to reveal the secrets of Devil Mountain to the whole world. But they change their minds when an interest in finding treasure and becoming rich takes them over. Together with their local friends and the reporter, the children need to learn the rules of the jungle and overcome their gold fever to follow their father's trail. When they reach the mountain peak, they see the wondrous world of the little gold people. And they learn the golden rule: 'Sometimes you need to forget all the rules, forget everything that you know and simply live an experience.'

adventure, jungle, friendship, gold fever,
expedition, family separation

 Bologna Ragazzi Award New Horizons 2022,
White Ravens 2022 collection



Luīze Pastore
(1986)

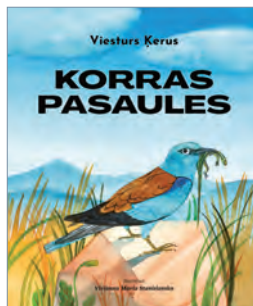
is a determined children's author whose motto is: resist boredom. Her books attract young readers with a colourful imagination and the ability to empathise with the way children perceive the world. At the same time, her stories expand one's worldview and let children learn important cultural codes.



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, sturdy, and well-structured foundation.





by **Viesturs Kerus**
Illustrations by
Vivianna Maria
Stanislavska

Size 16.5 x 21 cm
152 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-81-8

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English translation available

Korras pasaules KORRA'S WORLDS

Age 7+

The main character of this story is a bird named Korra. While migrating, Korra learns about different living conditions, nature, birds, and man-made dangers. Korra's selfish point of view changes when his baby birds hatch – he has to care for his children now.

By combining writing with knowledge of biology and an emotional story with scientific facts, the author creates believable scenes that can help build a respectful relationship with nature. This book encourages children to perceive nature as an ensemble of diverse viewpoints instead of sticking with stereotypes from the human world. It is an opportunity for children to expand their knowledge of nature and geography by reading while exploring captivating illustrations.

birds, European roller, ecosystems, nature, seasons, migration, growing up, family, reading out loud



Viesturs Kerus
(1984)

is an ornithologist and the head of the Latvian Ornithological Society. He is a persistent advocate for birds in the fight against deforestation, and an expressive writer who continues the important tradition in Latvian children's literature of scientists sharing their knowledge directly with young readers by writing works on these topics.



Vivianna 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.





Meža meitene Maija MAIJA AND THE FOREST

Age 7+

Maija lives with her family in the forest in an old ranger's house. Her dad studies birds and can explain various processes in nature to Maija, introduce her to animals, and take her along on bird watching and ringing expeditions. Maija knows that every day spent out in nature is an adventure, because nature is ever changing and is always the source of something new.

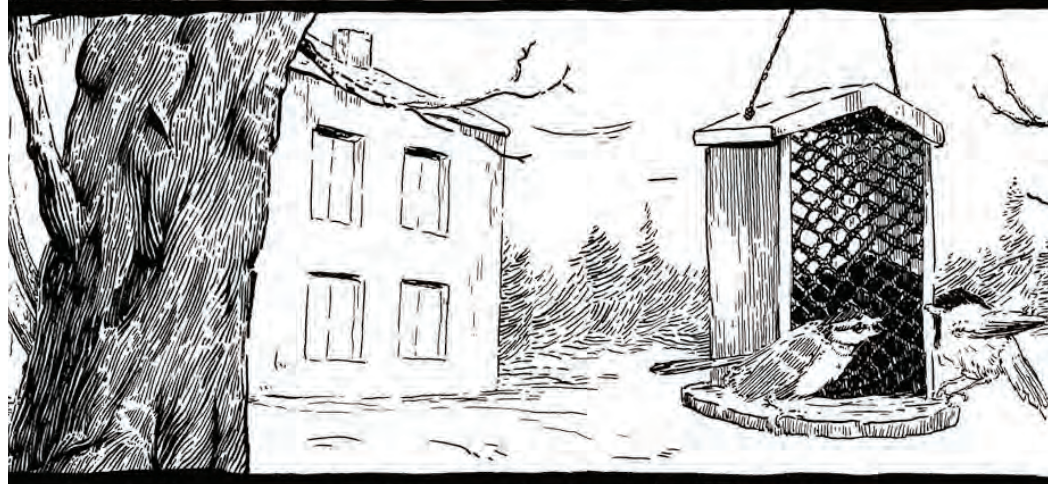
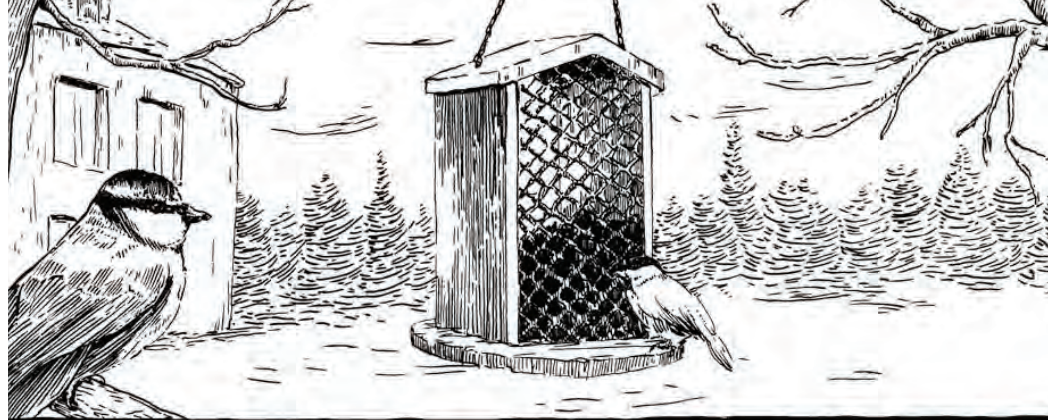
by **Viesturs Ķerus**
Illustrations
by **Didzis Upens**

Size 16.5 x 21 cm
64 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-32-0

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English translation available

birds, nature, seasons, family

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



Viesturs Ķerus
(1984)

is an ornithologist and the head of the Latvian Ornithological Society. He is a persistent advocate for birds in the fight against deforestation, and an expressive writer who continues the important tradition in Latvian children's literature of scientists sharing their knowledge directly with young readers by writing works on these topics.



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 also his first illustrated book. He used a rapidograph to draw the constant thin lines which create a classical, slightly muted visual feeling in his illustrations.



by **Lauris Gundars**
Illustrations
by **Anete Melece**

Size 16.5 x 21 cm
64 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-533-85-3

Foreign rights sold:
Russian, German, Korean,
Simplified Chinese
(Mainland China)

English translation available

Sveiks, Vali! HELLO, WHALE!

Age 7+



Whale is Buzzfly's grandfather and takes care of the little girl while her parents are at work. One question keeps bugging Buzzfly: why doesn't Whale say hello to anyone, not even her friend's grandmother whom they see almost every day? Buzzfly decides to teach the shy Whale how to say hello to others, but it turns out to be not as simple as she thought.

- # politeness, nicknames, relationship with grandparents, family
- 🏆 International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2018, White Ravens 2018 Collection



by **Lauris Gundars**
Illustrations
by **Anete Melece**

Size 16.5 x 21 cm
64 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-12-2

Foreign rights sold: Korean
English translation available

Vaļa balss WHALE'S VOTE

Age 7+



This is the second book about Whale and Buzzfly. Tomorrow is election day and Buzzfly is worried that her parents aren't taking this seriously enough. She locks the family inside their apartment and throws the only key out the window. Now her parents have to vote for the one who can get them out of this difficult situation and the only way they can do that is if they put their trust in each other like they would in a real government. Thrilling and dangerous events unfold as they try to get back the key, but they all learn some important lessons along the way.

- # family, elections, voting, relationship with grandparents
- 🏆 International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art for illustrations 2019



by **Lauris Gundars**
Illustrations
by **Anete Melece**

Size 16.5 x 21 cm
64 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-53-5

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English translation available

Valis ir atpakaļ WHALE IS BACK

Age 7+

In the third book, after Whale's family tries to 'update' his life, Buzzfly's grandfather has become addicted to screens and she has to fight to bring him back to reality. Now Buzzfly has to help Whale to find his way back from the Internet to the real world and back to human relationships. Contrary to the accepted belief that screen addicts are always children, in this book the child helps the adult, which reverses the situation and avoids lecturing the child. This approach combined with the emotional intensity of this book is the source of its positive effect. The authors help the reader to understand the difference between curiosity and addiction in the world of technology.

- # relationship with grandparents, screen addiction, family, friendship





Muffa MUFFA

Age 7+

The amazing story of a baby rhino's travel from Northern Europe to Africa. Muffa is an orphan, but is taken care of by Ibu the zookeeper. Soon Muffa learns to speak and read. He can speak the language of the humans, so no matter which country the two friends end up in, Muffa understands everybody and everybody understands him. But when Muffa reaches Kenya, where a huge variety of animals live on the lakeside, they are attacked by poachers.

by **Juris Zvirgzdiņš**
Illustrations
by **Reinis Pētersons**

Size 22 x 26 cm
96 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9984-820-32-3

Foreign rights sold: Italian
English translation available

friendship, adventures, animals, reading, European countries, Africa

🏆 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+)



Juris Zvirgzdiņš

(1941)

writes about travels in space and time. He collects interesting historical facts, legends, funny incidents and events, and builds exciting adventures out of them.



Reinis Pētersons

(1981)

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



Puika ar suni. Stāsts par nosargātu noslēpumu
A BOY AND HIS DOG.
THE STORY OF AN UNTOLD SECRET

Age 9+

by **Inese Zandere**, illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**

Size 14.8 x 21 cm, softcover

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian

The novel *A Boy and His Dog. The Story of an Untold Secret* is based on true events that took place in Rīga during World War II, and will be published in three parts. The main character, Zigis, is only 8 years old when the war begins. He is modelled on Zigfrīds, the son of Žanis Lipke who is remembered for saving the lives of Jewish people during the Nazi occupation of Latvia. The dangers of the war and the incredible courage of his parents in rescuing people targeted by the Nazis are challenging experiences for young Zigis.

the Holocaust through a child's eyes, coming of age, historical events, selflessness, search for truth



80 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-05-4

Pirmā burtnīca. Bailes
PART ONE. THE FEAR

He witnesses his father hiding Jewish people during the Nazi occupation of Latvia and the complex relationships people develop under these harsh circumstances. He can't yet fully comprehend the events and people's actions he sees around him, but as he grows older, he starts to understand more and takes an active role in his family's efforts to help these people escape the Nazis. Complex questions including 'what is the nature of good?' and 'why do people act the way they do?' often surface in young Zigis's mind.


 National Design Award of Latvia 2018



112 pages
 ISBN 978-9934-574-03-0

Otrā burtnīca. Bunkurs
PART TWO. THE BUNKER

The second part continues the story about Zigis and his parents, who saved at least 55 Jews in Rīga during World War II. Zigis 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 crowded conditions and uncertainty. And it is also not easy for Zigis to keep this dangerous secret.

 Festival of creative excellence ADWARDS 2021



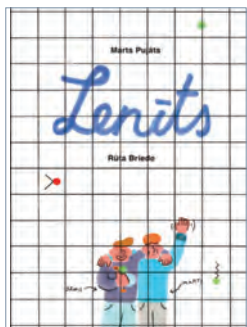
Inese Zandere
 (1958)

writes poetry that children read, memorise, sing, and remember. Her work is musical and cheerful, but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. Recently, she has turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children increasingly often.



Reinis Pētersons
 (1981)

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



by **Marts Pujāts**
Illustrations
by **Rūta Briede**

Size 14.8 x 21 cm
hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-78-8

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English sample translation
available

Zenīts ZENITH

Age 7+

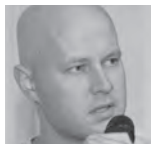


This poetry collection is a heartfelt message describing school experiences. The everyday lives of the members of the boys' choir are closely connected with music. Not everyone would be up to their schedules packed with classes and concerts, but at the same time, they are growing, unruly, and emotional children. The boys take joyrides in the elevator, write dictations in solfeggio, play 'Super Mario,' draw imagined superheroes in their notebooks and show off their new boots.

The poems blend the realities of life in the 1990s, personal memories of childhood, irreplaceable school friendships, and, of course, the ability of the grown-up poet to express all of that through poetic imagery, which also connects with the artist's clever observations.

boys' choir, school life, music, growing up,
the 1990s

🏆 Selected for 100 Outstanding Picturebooks 2023
by dPictus



Marts Pujāts
(1982)

is considered the most unusual and 'untameable' Latvian poet of his generation, who preserves qualities of childlike innocence alongside cultivated sarcasm in his poetry. His poetry has been translated into Russian, English, Bulgarian, Swedish, and Lithuanian.



Rūta Briede a.k.a. R.B.
(1984)

illustrates books, draws comics, contributes to puppet theatre productions, and teaches students at the Latvian Academy of Art. 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.





by **Ērika Bērziņa**
Illustrations
by **Anna Vaivare**

Size: 18.4 x 24 cm
56 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-49-8

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English sample translation
available

Mammas dzejoļi MOM POEMS

Age 5+

These poems show the lives of a mother and children as a game in which the whole family participates and the rules and tasks are constantly changing as the children grow up. Seen through the eyes of a mother and children, the family provides dynamic opportunities for discoveries and surprises, because love and empathy constantly create something new and interesting even from everyday work, routines, quarrels, and porridge pots. The illustrations, in which the mother is everywhere at the same time, are also home to cats, crows, and other important family members — even a real zebra who lives at the pedestrian crossing.

family, siblings, everyday routine, humour



Ērika Bērziņa
(1977)

is a poet and the editor-in-chief of a monthly family magazine, and also is a literary critic. The characters in her poetry are drawn from everyday events and poignant sensory impressions. In her children's poetry, she writes with sensitivity about family relationships. She is also an organiser of various cultural events as well as an annual poetry festival.



Anna Vaivare
(1987)

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, you only have to ask: 'Anna, could you draw...'





by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations
by **Reinis Pētersons**

Size 21 x 21 cm
32 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9984-820-46-0

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



Inese Zandere
(1958)

writes poetry that children read, memorise, sing, and remember. Her work is musical and cheerful, but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. Recently, she has turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children increasingly often.



Reinis Pētersons
(1981)

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

Līze Analīze un citi
slimnīcas skaitāmpanti
ALL BETTER!

Age 5+

This book offers a dose of positive 'art therapy'. By looking at the pictures and reading or listening to the poems, young children can cope better with their fear of getting ill and medical treatments. The illustrations by Reinis Pētersons create a colourful and lively atmosphere, emphasising the element of play and humour in the poems. The hospital, as seen by the artist, is a place where life goes on, a place where there is room for adventures and friendship.

hospital, getting well, humour, overcoming fear

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





Laika bikses TIME'S TROUSERS – A BOOK OF TIME

Age 7+

In this poetry collection for school-age children, Juris Kronbergs presents a witty mix of observation, research, and scientific classification, a technique which he already used to great effect in his first children's poetry book *The Book of Clouds*. In this work he directs his attention towards time, portraying it as a living being, which has various habits and characteristics just like a person.

by **Juris Kronbergs**
Illustrations
by **Anete Melece**

Size 14.8 x 21 cm
64 pages, flexicover
ISBN 978-9934-574-31-3

Foreign rights sold:
Korean, Italian
English translation available

the passage of time, children's poetry



Juris Kronbergs

(1946 - 2020)

wrote poetry in Latvian and Swedish, built a stable translation bridge between the Latvian and Swedish cultures, and watched the clouds from both sides of the Baltic Sea.



Anete Melece

(1983)

works in Latvia and Switzerland in graphic art, illustration, comics, and animation. She is a witty observer of tiny mundane details, who offers a daring parallel visual narrative to the story. She is one of the most successful and talented illustrators in Latvia, who has proven herself also as a book author.





by **Juris Kronbergs**
Illustrations
by **Anete Melece**

Size 14.8 x 21 cm
64 pages, flexicover
ISBN 978-9984-820-27-9

Foreign rights sold: Korean,
English (UK), Italian, Spanish
(World), Catalan, Basque,
Galician
English translation available

Mākoņu grāmata THE BOOK OF CLOUDS

Age 7+

A cloud watcher's notes – poems for younger children up to middle school age. The habits, character, roles, and thoughts of clouds. While their rules and habits, character and roles are somewhat different, they are still very similar to those of human society. What you see in the sky depends on how you see yourself.

different types of clouds, imagination, humour

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



Juris Kronbergs
(1946 - 2020)

wrote poetry in Latvian and Swedish, built a stable translation bridge between the Latvian and Swedish cultures, and watched the clouds from both sides of the Baltic Sea.



Anete Melece
(1983)

works in Latvia and Switzerland in graphic art, illustration, comics, and animation. She is a witty observer of tiny mundane details, who offers a daring parallel visual narrative to the story. She is one of the most successful and talented illustrators in Latvia, who has proven herself also as a book author.





Runājošie suni THE TALKING DOGS

Age 6+

Jacob is spending the summer in the suburbs with his cousin Mimmi (who's a bit of a smarty-pants) and becomes friends with Boss, the leader of a horde of talking stray dogs. The children join forces with the dogs to try to rescue their community from the wealthy Lord Pie and his plans to convert their cosy neighbourhood of wooden houses into a faceless district of glass skyscrapers.

The comic is based on the feature animation film *Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs*. The comic is drawn by Elīna Brasliņa who was also the artist for the animated film. She developed a new style for the comics and redrew the story completely, keeping the warm colour palette of the drawings, and showing some contrasts between the old-fashioned suburb with wooden houses and the modern but cold city centre. There are references to familiar places and buildings in Riga; however, they are not depicted exactly but rather in a representational manner.

by **Elīna Brasliņa**
based on an animated
feature film by
Edmunds Jansons

Size 21 x 28 cm
64 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-23-8

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

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 adaptations to film and books about the industry, for the category Adaptation for Children or Young Adults.

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

Film sold to: France, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain

adventures, summer, dogs, friendship, urban life, sustainability

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



Elīna 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 that up until now has only lived in an author's imagination. Elina always adds unexpected flourishes to her handwriting, which other illustrators only shake their heads at and say: 'Why didn't I think of that?'



Edmunds Jansons (1972)

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



young adult



by **Lote Vilma Vītiņa**
Illustrations
by the **author**

Size 13 x 19 cm
128 pages, softcover
ISBN 978-9934-574-54-2

Foreign rights:
All languages available
English translation available



Lote Vilma Vītiņa
(1993)

is an illustrator, artist, and poet. Her drawings feature an interplay of lively, emotional lines with pastel colours. They are light, spontaneous, and depict touching creatures.



Ūdenstornis THE WATER TOWER

Age 12+

The everyday world of the main character, a teenage girl, consists of life in a small town, school, and a water tower. Anything can happen in the tower – she can talk to birds and her favourite writers or even pat a light blue horse. The water tower is a place she has created in her imagination – a refuge and a hiding place. Short texts consisting of stories and poems, along with illustrations and comic pages, let the reader see how she deals with small town boredom, a family who still treats her as a child, school with its confusing tasks, and also meeting someone else who has a ‘water tower’ of their own in their imagination and reality.

coming of age, imagination, isolation, friendship

🏆 The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2021





by **Luīze Marija Meļķe,**
Kirils Ēcis, Raimonds
Kīrkis, Agnese
Krivāde, Kārlis Vērdiņš
 Illustrations
 by **Agate Lielpētere,**
Liāna Mihailova,
Sanita Adoviča, Pauls
Rietums

Size 12 x 17 cm
 100 pages, softcover
 978-9934-574-67-2

Foreign rights:
 All languages available
 English translation available

Netikumīgie THE WICKED



Age 14+

The poetry collection *The Wicked* includes poems from the award-winning documentary poetry play of the same name (performed at Dirty Deal Teatro, directed by Krista Burāne). The play is based on the observations of two experienced poets and three young poets and the research they carried out in two classes of 14-year-olds. The poems by the young poets show the eighth graders and the situations they find themselves in, while the experienced poets wrote poetry that shows the situation from the teachers' point of view. The play as well as the book address and support teenagers' and adolescents' 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 freedom. Instead of copying the stage design of the play, we invited four young illustrators to produce new visual interpretations of the texts with an experienced art book designer then creating a strong and unified design.

teenagers, adolescents, teachers, school, coming of age

🏆 Selected for the BolognaRagazzi Award Amazing Bookshelf 2022, The National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2021 - most beautiful book of the year for young adults.



In this series, beloved Latvian author Māra Zālīte tells the story of two lively and curious dogs, Tango and Tassel, who are like two children but with four legs.

by **Māra Zālīte**, illustrations by **Anete Bajāre-Babčuka**

Size 16.4 x 21 cm, 64 pages, hardcover

Tango un Tūtiņa ciemos TANGO AND TASSEL GO FOR A VISIT

Age 7+

In the first book, these dogs – a brother and sister – are dreaming of a nice trip to see their aunt. They imagine how on the train they'll eat ice cream and look out the window. But Tango is late and his sister leaves without him, so he needs to figure it out on his own, overcome various dangers, and find his aunt's village even though he's forgotten its name. The only thing he remembers is that the village is by the sea...

human and animal relationships, nature and villages by the Baltic Sea, children's independence and resourcefulness in an unforeseen situation

🏆 International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2012

Tango un Tūtiņa sēnēs TANGO AND TASSEL PICK MUSHROOMS

Age 7+

In this book, the dogs think up a good excuse for being allowed to go to the forest by themselves while their aunt is away: they're going mushroom picking. The mushrooms they find in the forest reveal many secrets about the mushroom world to them and also a terrible ancient legend: long ago dogs were used to check if mushrooms were poisonous. When Tango and Tassel are threatened by two unfriendly mushroom pickers with ill intent, the mushrooms use their special powers and help the dogs return safely home.

acquaintance with nature, human-nature relations, diversity of the world of mushrooms, origin and meanings of mushroom names



Māra Zālīte
(1952)

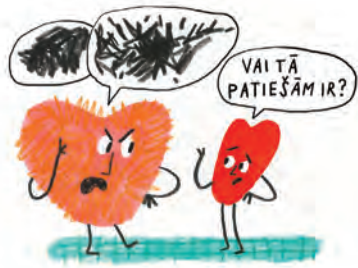
writes poetry and prose, works in theatre, and is a well-known cultural figure. She has received many literary awards, her works have been translated into English, Swedish, French, Lithuanian and other languages. She has written a poetry collection and 3 prose books for children. Two novels - *Five Fingers* (Pieci pirksti) and *Birds of Paradise* (Paradīzes putni) - tell the story of her childhood after her family's return to Latvia from Siberia.



Anete Bajāre-Babčuka
(1991)

Using muted compositions and well-placed features that are just right for the time and feeling of a story, Anete creates illustrations that make the reader feel they are in the story themselves and helps them identify with its characters.





by **Agnese Vanaga**
and **Anna Vaivare**

size 17.8 x 22.5 cm
64 pages, hardcover

Sirdslietas MATTERS OF THE HEART

Age 7+

This book treats topics important to children – friendship, understanding, empathy, emotions, and, unavoidably, also conflicts – with humour and in an easily understandable way. The main characters in this comic are two hearts – individuals with different personalities. They play, squabble, care for each other, sometimes also annoy each other, but gradually grow and become two good, open hearts.

friendship, empathy, trust, emotions,
conflict resolution



Agnese Vanaga
(1985)

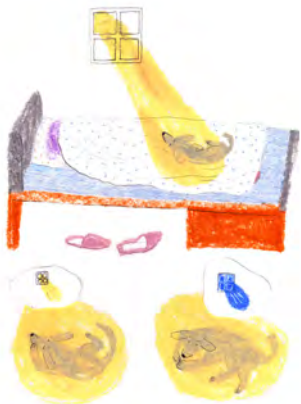
switched from journalism and communications to writing books in 2014. Vanaga writes adventurously about the importance of environmental issues and emotions. Her debut story about environmental issues 'Plastic Hooligans' was published in 2019.



Anna Vaivare
(1987)

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, you only have to ask: 'Anna, could you draw...'





by **Maira Dobele**
Illustrations
by **Rebeka Lukošus**

size 19.4 x 25 cm
48 pages, hardcover

Es tevi gaidīju! I WAS WAITING FOR YOU!

Crossover

How long is too long to wait? Can you wait every day? How many treats are too many, and why does a human get to decide that? How do you comfort a sad human if she doesn't speak the same language as dogs? Where is the dog's door to open the fridge?

Sponge is a dog who is always waiting for its owner. The owner is the dog's stress reliever – taking care of his older human helps Sponge calm down. Their interaction structures both of their lives and gives them meaning. The simple life situations told from the dog's point of view remind us that pets – like humans – need empathy, care, a safe environment, and a daily rhythm and that animals also have thoughts and needs – not always understandable or perceivable by humans.

dogs, empathy, relationships, comics



Maira Dobele

(1976)

prepared herself for young adult literature through studies of documentary filmmaking. Her strength lies in her keen sense of reality and sensitivity toward social issues. She knows that living wrong can be right!



Rebeka Lukošus

(1995)

is one of the rising stars of contemporary illustration in Latvia. Her graphic style stands out with its minimalistic image design, which supports the tone of any written text with its simplicity and wit.





by **Inese Zandere**
Illustrations
by **Rūta Briede**

Published by
The Latvian National
Library Foundation

size 18.5 x 24 cm
56 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-9161-0-6

Foreign rights sold:
All languages available

Vai grāmatai ir knābis? DOES A BOOK HAVE A BEAK?

Age 5+

The main protagonist, Elmer the Baby Owl, discovers that books are nothing like owls: they don't have beaks. Elmer, his friends, and the wise Library Owl are book explorers. They discover which door they have to use to enter a book, what stories pictures can tell, and whether ants live in books. They learn letters and illustrate stories they have made up themselves.

Inese Zandere and Rūta Briede's picture book *Does a Book Have a Beak?* was specially created for 'Book Start' – the National Library of Latvia reading promotion programme for young readers. 'Book Start' invites three-year-olds to visit public libraries in Latvia, so they can learn about the world of books and read with their families. *Does a Book Have a Beak?* is included in the 'Book Start Kit' every little reader gets when visiting the library.

The Latvian National Library Foundation is a public organisation founded in 1998, which organises various charity events and programmes that help the National Library of Latvia and libraries across Latvia become centres of culture, education, and community life rich in the collections and opportunities they offer.

- # introducing children to books and libraries, book illustration, how stories are created, creative play with books, reading promotion



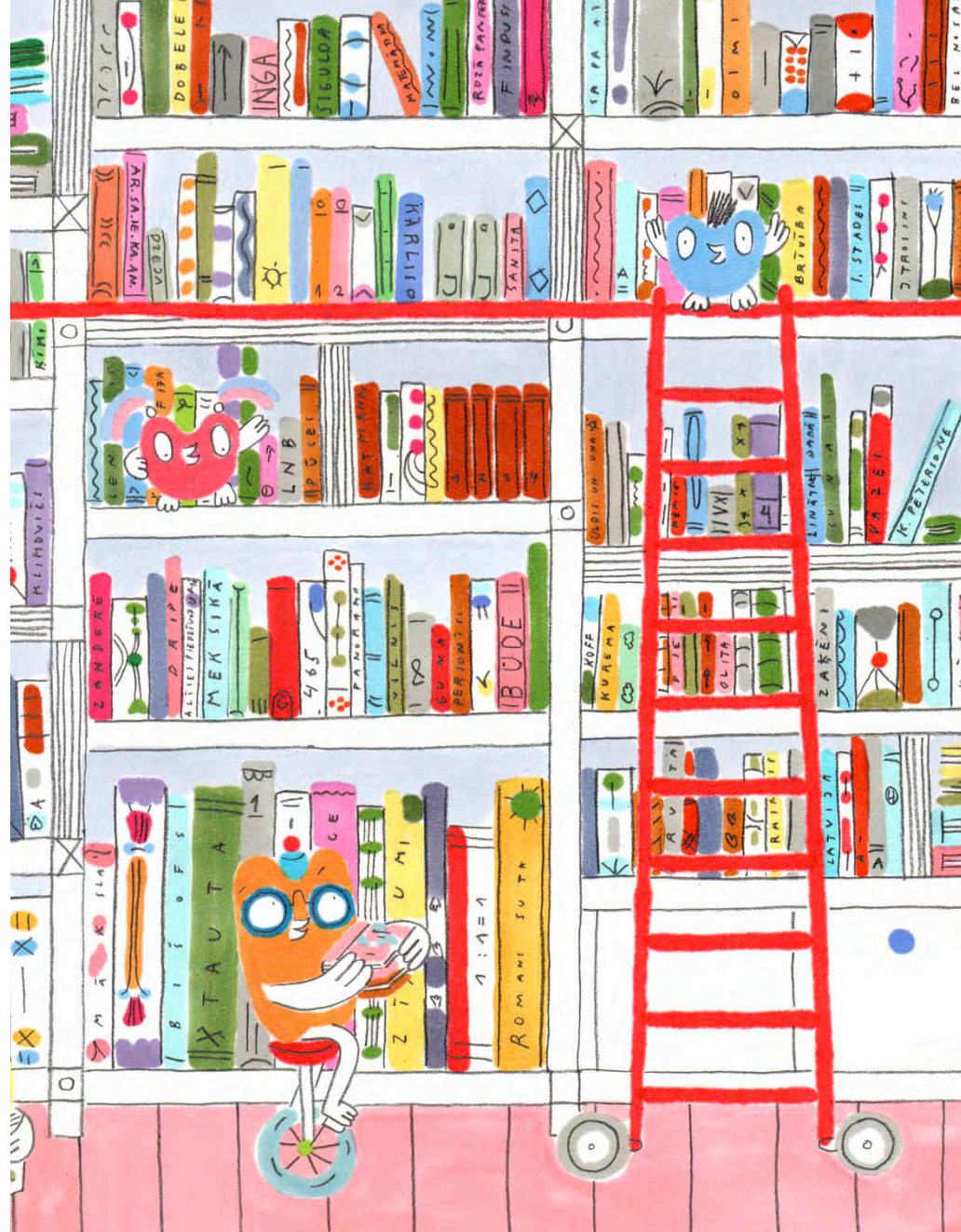
Inese Zandere
(1958)

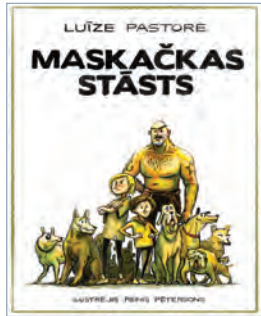
writes poetry that children read, memorise, sing, and remember. Her work is musical and cheerful, but quite serious and philosophical at the same time. Recently, she has turned to writing fairy tales and other stories for children increasingly often.



Rūta Briede a.k.a. R.B.
(1984)

illustrates books, draws comics, contributes to puppet theatre productions, and teaches students at the Latvian Academy of Art. 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.





by **Luīze Pastore**
Illustrations
by **Reinis Pētersons**

Published by Neputns

Size 21 x 26 cm
128 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-512-08-7

Foreign rights sold: **English**

Maskačkas stāsts DOG TOWN

Age 7+

Based on a local legend, this is a prizewinning story of myths, maps, talking dogs, and summer adventures in the big city. Jacob Bird lives in Riga with his father. Jacob loves maps like his dad and is fascinated by the legend, which warns that no one must say 'Riga is ready' or the river will flood the town, tall ships will sail down the main street, and the city will have to start all over again. One day Jacob mutters the fateful words. But all that happens is he is sent to live for the summer with his grumpy cousin Mimi and Uncle Eagle because his dad is too busy to look after him. But strange things are afoot in the run-down Maskatchaka district of Riga, where Jacob now has to live. Evil Skylar Scrapper's scheme to transform it into a concrete jungle is being fought tooth and paw by the stray dogs, led by their fierce commander Boss, his mate Bianca and their twin puppies. Jacob is astonished when Boss starts talking to him, but he is hurt when Mimi doesn't want him to join their fight against Skylar. Then Bianca goes missing, and Jacob's maps may be the only thing that can bring her home and save the talking dogs of Maskatchka.

cousins, teamwork, independent girl, summer, distant suburb, talking dogs, architecture

🏆 The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2014



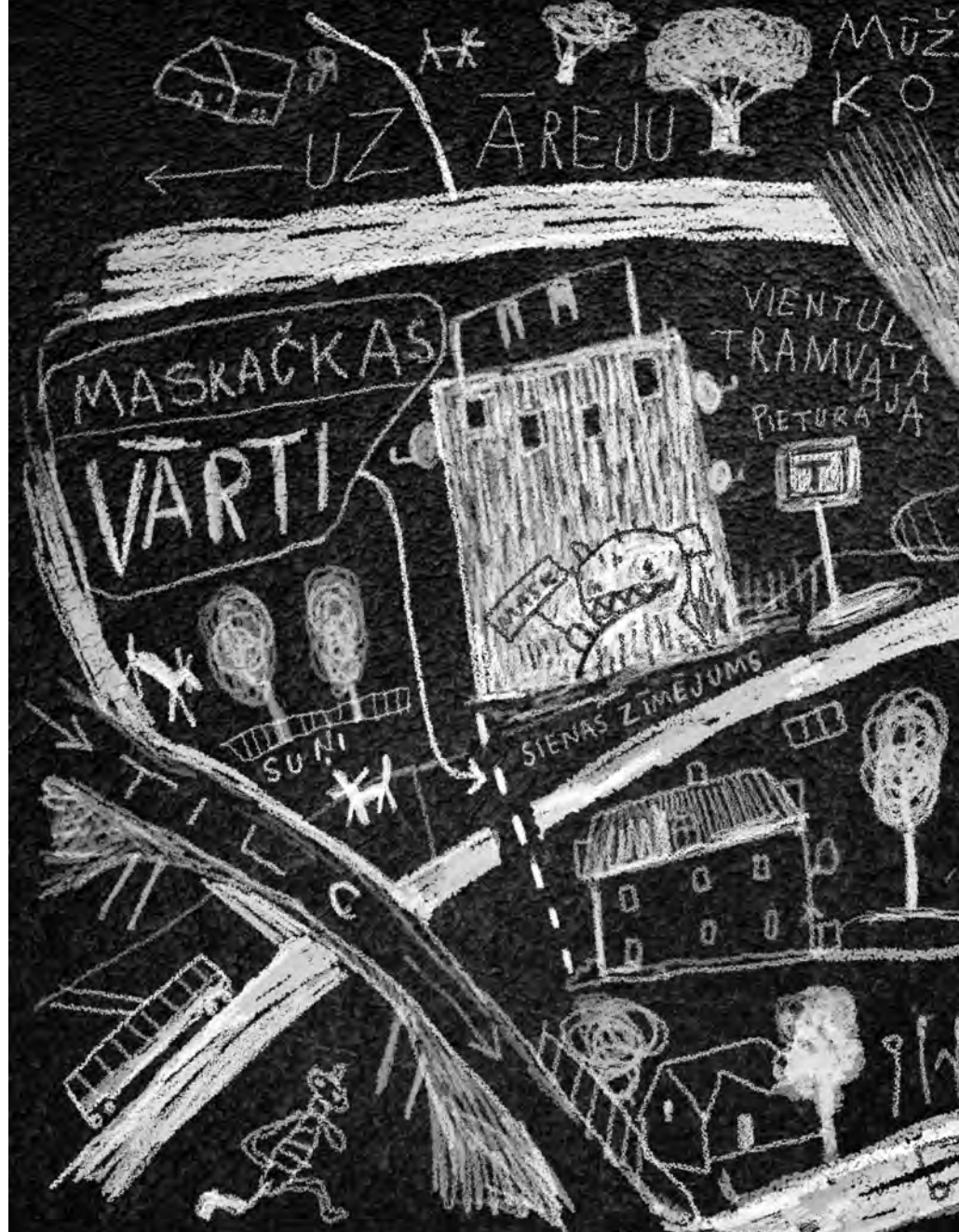
Luīze Pastore
(1986)

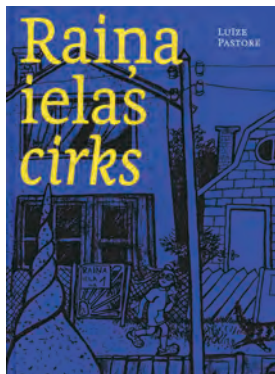
is a determined children's author whose motto is: resist boredom. Her books attract young readers with a colourful imagination and the ability to empathise with the way children perceive the world. At the same time, her stories expand one's worldview and let children learn important cultural codes.



Reinis Pētersons
(1981)

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





by **Luīze Pastore**
Illustrations
by **Ieva Jurjāne**

Published by Neputns

Size 20.5 x 29.7 cm
128 pages, hardcover
ISBN 978-9934-601-47-7

Foreign rights:
All languages available

Raiņa ielas cirks THE CIRCUS ON RAINIS STREET

Age 7+

Rainis Street is home to a diverse community that readers might imagine they would not get along with; yet, here they are united into one big, harmonious neighbourhood where the whole street is effectively a team of group players comprising all the different families. The story emphasises the understanding between the older people and the children, and the trust in the adults, forming a familial but comic team throughout the street. The main characters are Jūle and Margrieta, each living opposite Rainis Street.

neighbourhood, friendship, generations



Mākslas detektīvi THE ART DETECTIVES SERIES

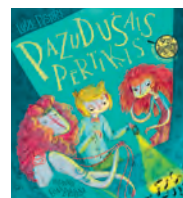
Age 7+

by **Luīze Pastore**, illustrations by **Elīna Brasliņa**
Published by Neputns

Size 20 x 21.5 cm, 60 pages, softcover

Foreign rights sold: All languages available

The Missing Monkey
ISBN 978-9934-512-50-6



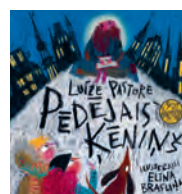
The Arrival of a Stranger
ISBN 978-9934-512-67-4



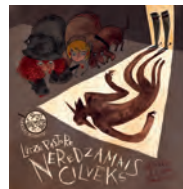
The Mask
ISBN 978-9934-512-98-8



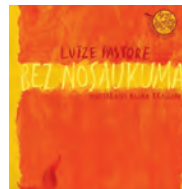
The Last King
ISBN 978-9934-565-00-7



The Invisible Man
ISBN 978-9934-512-51-3



The Untitled
ISBN 978-9934-565-53-3



Adventurous detective stories inside the world of artworks. Can the works of art come to life? What about the possibility of stepping into a painting and experiencing the depicted story? What are the secrets that the artists have hidden in their paintings?

The 'Art Detectives' books invite you behind the scenes of the art world, full of adventures and mysteries. The series features the young detectives Theo and Button and their sausage-dog Comma, who investigate the secrets of works by some of the best-known Latvian artists.

Six titles have been published in the 'Art Detectives' series - 'The Missing Monkey,' 'The Invisible Man,' 'The Arrival of a Stranger,' 'The Mask,' 'The Last King' and 'The Untitled.' In all six books, Theo and Button go on the most incredible chase in the art world's history, meeting famous Latvian artists (Janis Rozentāls, Niklāvs Strunke, etc.) or artists that have roots in Latvia (Mark Rothko).

The story deals with several themes, such as inclusiveness towards diversity, normalisation of marginalised groups, fostering neighbourhood communities and civic participation.

art history, detective stories, friendship, travelling in time, paintings

🏆 The White Ravens 2016, Pastariņš Prize 2017, International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2015, Latvian Children's Jury Award 2016, The Annual Latvian Literature Award 2016



Bikibuks
BICKI-BUCK BOOKS

Age 1+

A series of 101 small poetry picture books.

Design by **Rūta Briede** and **Artis Briede**

Size 10.5 x 14.5 cm, 20 – 32 pages, stapled, paperback

Foreign rights sold: English world rights for

#1, #16, #20, #21, #28, #30, #39, #40, #62, #65, #89, #90



Suns, kurš atrada skumjas
THE DOG WHO FOUND SORROW

Crossover

A picture book about emotions.

by **R. B.**, illustrations by **Elīna Brasliņa**

Size 20 x 23 cm, 32 pages, hardcover

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



Trīs draugi vienas upes krastā
ONE HOUSE FOR ALL

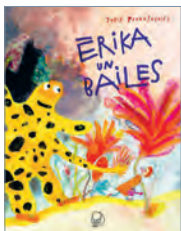
Age 4+

A picture book about friendship and compromises.

by **Inese Zandere**, illustrations by **Juris Petraškevičs**

Size 21 x 28 cm, 32 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights sold: English (excluding North America)



Ērika un bailes
ERICA AND HER FEARS

Age 4+

A picture book about emotions and fear of thunderstorms.

by **Juris Petraškevičs**, illustrations by the **author**

Size 21 x 28 cm, 32 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights sold: Korean



Bize un Neģuļa
PIGTAIL AND
MR. SLEEPLESSNESS

Age 4+

A Christmas story for early readers.

Based on an animated film by **Edmunds Jansons**

Illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**

Size 21 x 27 cm, 32 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights sold: Macedonian



Vai otrā grupa mani dzird?
CAN THE BACK ROW HEAR ME?

Age 5+

A poetry book about a family's everyday life.

by **Inga Gaile**, illustrations by **Anete Melece**

Size 18.4 x 24 cm, 64 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights sold: All languages available



Ej nu ej
COME ON NOW

Age 5+

Poems express the sense of insecurity and mystery characteristic of a child's world.

By **Marts Pujāts**, illustrations by **Lāsma Pujāte**

Size: 17 x 24 cm, 52 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights: All languages available



Tētis
DADDY

Age 6+

The main character of this poetry collection is Dad, but which Dad is it? The one who stays at home with their son while Mom is out at work or the aggressive driver?

By **Kārlis Vērdiņš**, illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**

Size 19 x 25 cm, 64 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights sold: Spanish



Kā Lupatiņi mācījās
HOW THE SHAMMIES LEARNED
 Age 3+

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

The exercises adapted by **Maira Dobele**
 Illustrations by **Reinis Pētersons**

Size 20 x 23 cm, 32 pages, hardcover, talking pen

Foreign rights: All languages available, except Estonian



Pasaka par bruņinieku, kuram sāpēja zobu
THE TALE OF THE KNIGHT WHO HAD A TOOTHACHE
 Age 5+

A story about a knight who loved to eat candies and had his first appointment with the dentist.

by **Sergej Timofejev**, illustrations by **Rūta Briede**
 Translated from Russian by **Jolanta Pētersone**

Size 16 x 20 cm, 40 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights: All languages available



Baltais lācis. Pasaku pavārgrāmata bērniem
WHITE BEAR'S COOKING ADVENTURES
 Age 5+

An adventurous story about a polar bear with six paws. On each spread of the book, the story is complemented by a simple yet interesting recipe that kids can prepare on their own.

Illustrations by **Māra Viška**, text by **Uldis Daugaviņš**,
 recipes by **Mārtiņš Sirmāis**

Size 22.5 x 29.7 cm, 40 pages, hardcover

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



Pirmo reizi uz Zemes
FIRST TIME ON EARTH
 Age 8+

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.

by **Inga Žolude**, illustrations by **Krišs Salmanis**

Size 14.8 x 21 cm, 96 pages, hardcover

Foreign rights: All languages available



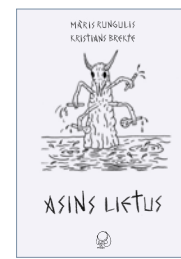
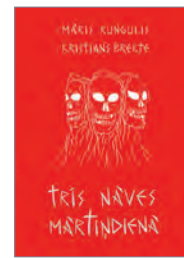
Nepareizas dzīves skola
THE SCHOOL OF LIVING WRONG
 Age 9+

This book contains nine stories about the tiny daily catastrophe-filled life of a teenage girl named Mētra and her road to getting to know herself.

by **Maira Dobele**, illustrations by **Anete Melece**

Size 17.5 x 23.5 cm, hardcover, dust jacket

Foreign rights sold: Lithuanian



GHOST STORY TRILOGY
 Age 10+

Since the mid-eighties, Māris Rungulis has been collecting the horror stories children delight in telling each other and merged them into a book series about the children themselves. *A walk in the city of the dead*, *Three deaths on Halloween*, *The rain of blood*.

By **Māris Rungulis**, illustrations by **Kristians Brekte**

Size 14.8 x 21 cm, hardcover

Foreign rights: All languages available

OUR LIST OF TRANSLATED BOOKS



Liels un Mazs has been successfully participating in the international circulation of children's literature by obtaining the EU 'Creative Europe' funding. We take an equal interest in both 'big' and 'small' languages and encourage translators to focus on the 'small' ones. Thanks to the support of this grant programme, so far we have published 35 books in 12 languages.

The project 'Children's Europe' (Bērnu Eiropa) has received financing from the EU programme 'Creative Europe' (call for proposal 'Culture strand' 2021-2027) in support of the activity 'Circulation of European literary works', which intends to translate and publish 20 children's books from various European languages in Latvian.

In 2023, Liels un Mazs will publish 8 titles with EU support: Prezent dla Dwojga by Mikołaj łożiński, illustrated by Janek Koza (Poland), 'Papierklavier' by Elisabeth Steinkellner, illustrated by Anna Gusella (Germany), 'A Guerra' by José Jorge Letria, illustrated by Andre Letria (Portugal), 'Kuhu Lapsed Said?' by Indrek Koff, illustrated by Elina Sildre (Estonia), 'Hvem rumpet brunosten?' by Erlend Loe, illustrated by Kim Hiorthøy (Norway), 'Is er dan niemand boos?' by Toon Tellegen, illustrated by Marc Boutavant (Netherlands and France), 'Klárka a 11 babiček' by Olga Černá, illustrated by Alžběta Skálová (Czechia).



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



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



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



Jurga Vilė,
Lina Itagaki
SIBIRO HAIKU
(Lithuania)



Mawil
KINDERLAND
(Germany)



Anouk Ricard
ANNA & FROGA
(France)



Lene Ask, Mari
Kanstad Johnsen
D FOR TIGER
(Norway)



Tove Jansson
HUR GICK DET SEN?
(Finland)



Janosch
ACH, SO SCHÖN IST PANAMA
(Germany)



Kitty Crowther
SAGOR OM NATTEN
(Sweden/ Belgium)



Shaun Tan
TALES FROM OUTER SUBURBIA
(Australia)



Kristin Roskifte
ALLE SAMMEN TELLER
(Norway)



Романа Романишин,
Андрій Лесів
ГОЛОСНО, ТИХО, ПОШЕПКИ
(Ukraine)



Романа Романишин,
Андрій Лесів
Я ТАК БАЧУ
(Ukraine)



Романа Романишин,
Андрій Лесів
КУРС ПЕРВІРТА РОНДО
(Ukraine)



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



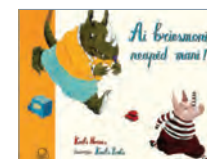
Ulf Stark,
Linda Bondestam
D JUR SOM INGEN SETT UTOM VI
(Sweden)



José Jorge Letria,
André Letria
SE EU FOSSE UM LIVRO
(Portugal)



Sven Nordquist
NÄR FINDUS VAR LITEN OCH FÖRSVANN
(Sweden)



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



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Design by Ūna Laukmane
Edited by Uldis Balodis

