



ZVAIGZNE ABC PUBLISHERS

Latvian Books for Children

CATALOGUE 2023

Agija Staka

ĀPSĒNS PĒCIS NEGRIB MAZGĀTIES

ĀPSĒNS PĒCIS UN BRĪNUMBRILLES

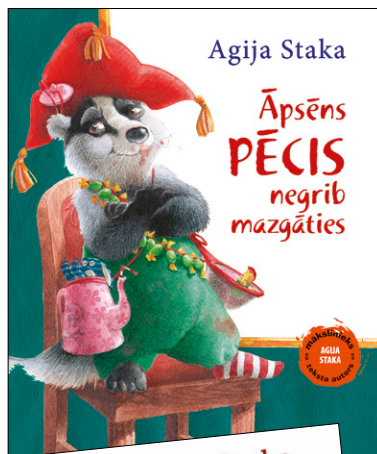
PETER BADGER DOES NOT LIKE
TAKING BATH

PETER BADGER AND
THE WONDERGLASSES

Illustrator Agija Staka

Story books about Peter Badger are educational, practical and a great fun! Who likes to wash their hands and be clean? Not Peter Badger, for sure! In the first book he finds out that skipping bath brings about soooooooo many problems... In the second book he discovers how unusual and full of surprises the world is. Sometimes you just need glasses to see it!

*Family duties, humour, fable, animals,
informative, practical*



9789934061462

9789934310003

Age 3–6

30 × 25 cm

28 pages



AGIJA STAKA

Agija has illustrated more than 160 books. Her main target audience is usually rather young, so she has illustrated numerous collections of fairy tales, stories and poetry for children, teens and young adults.

Agija generally prefers to work in watercolour, but she also likes papercraft, using fabric and various natural materials. Agija also works with acrylic paint, pastels, oil pastels and pencil; sometimes she uses mixed techniques.

Agija's education: College of Applied Arts, Design program; BA: Art Academy of Latvia, Faculty of Design; MA: Art Academy of Latvia, Faculty of Visual Arts.



BOARD BOOK

Agija Staka. ĀPSĒNA PIEDZĪVOJUMI

THE ADVENTURES OF BADGER

Illustrator Agija Staka

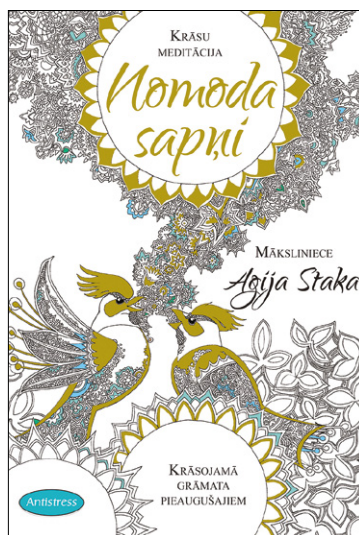
Friendship, joy, encouragement

9789934087042

Age 1,5+

20 × 20 cm

10 pages



With an exquisite line, the artist has created a mysterious dream world. On these pages both – adults and their children, have the opportunity to complement the fine drawings with their fantasy characters and colour them in the most unusual combinations. Enjoy the joy of creativity and free your mind from the stress!

NOMODA SAPŅI AWAKE DREAMING

9789934060052

Age 7+, adults

30 × 21 cm

64 pages

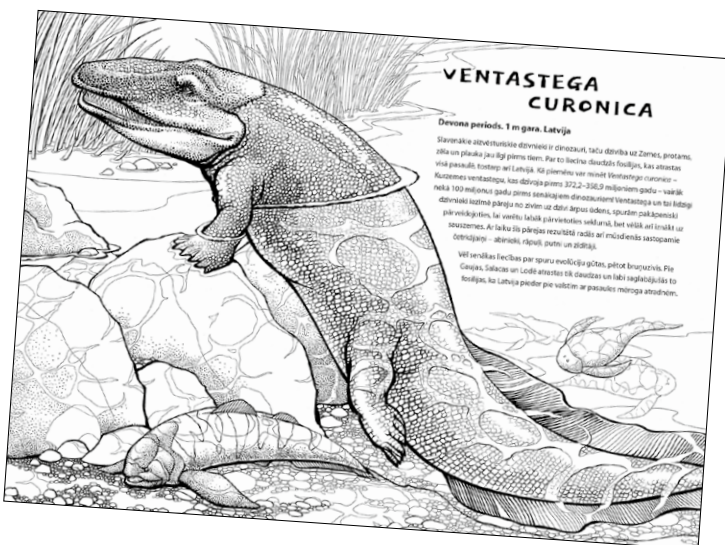
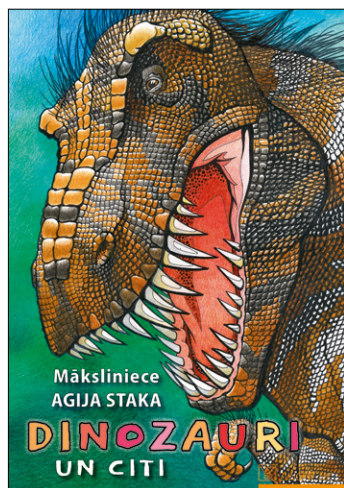
DINOZAURI UN CITI DINOSAURS AND OTHERS

9789934312052

Age 7+

29 × 20,5 cm

16 pages



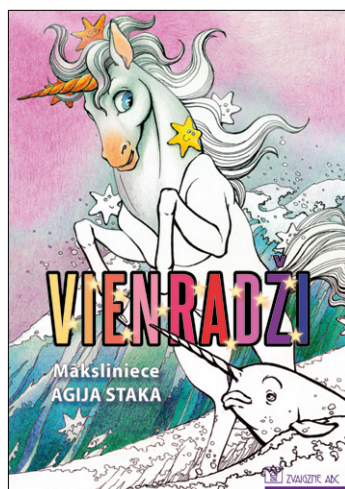
VIENRADŽI UNICORNS. Colouring book with exercises

9789934091681

Age 4+

29 × 20,5 cm

16 pages



IZKRĀSO 2023. GADU! COLOR THE YEAR 2023! Calendar



9789934312892

Age 7+

29 × 29 cm; 24 pages



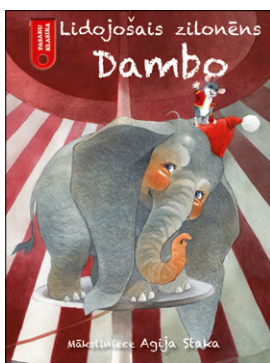
Brothers Grimm, Illustrator Agija Staka
THE WOLF AND THE SEVEN YOUNG KIDS.
THREE LITTLE PIGS.
HANSEL AND GRETEL.
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

World-famous fairy tales have been published in new editions with contemporary illustrations.

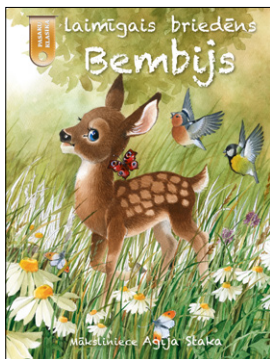
9789934073410; 9789934073397
 9789934072427; 9789934073403
 Age 3–6
 22 × 29 cm
 16 pages



LITTLE FLYING ELEPHANT DUMBO
HAPPY FAWN BAMBI
 Illustrator Agija Staka



9789934082832
 Age 4+
 30 × 22 cm
 20 pages



9789934082825
 Age 4+
 30 × 22 cm
 20 pages





EVIJĀ GULBE

is a philologist, author of children's storybooks and poetry books, teacher and radio moderator.



LINDA LOŠINA

is a book illustrator and designer.

In 2011, they created the images of two little rats Koko and Riko which are already beloved by a whole generation of young readers.

In 2019, the authors received several prizes for their work, including the prestigious Copyright Infinity Award.

Children love the positive mindset, attractiveness and sparkly humour of Evija and Linda, therefore the authors often receive invitations to visit kindergartens and schools.

9789934020766

9789934052385

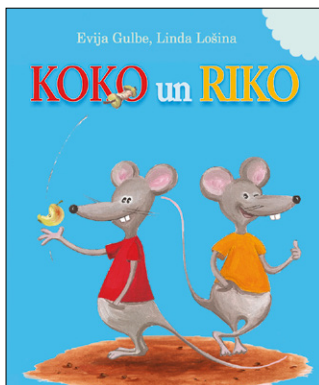
9789934071829

9789934092251

Age 2-8

24,5 x 20 cm

52 pages



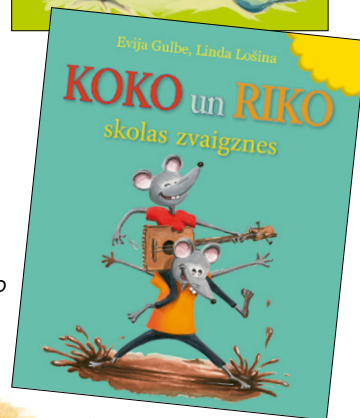
Evija Gulbe, Linda Lošina

KOKO AND RIKO BOOKS

Illustrator Linda Lošina

The *Koko and Riko* editions include illustrated storybooks, colouring books and task books with stickers, pocket size books and cardboard books for toddlers. The little rats also came alive in the play by Latvia Puppet Theatre *Koko and Riko* (2017) and the *Christmas show with Koko and Riko* (2017).

Fairy-tales, humour, friendship, family, adventure



Tikmēr lieli un mazi palīgi vilka, stiepa un gadāja. Pagarā ienestie čiekuri šūstot klusi čirkstināja savu dziesmu. Mandarīnu, kanēļa, riekstu un piparkūku smaržas patkami satrauca žurku deguntīņus. Katru kaktu, ikvienam stārti sil-dija svētku omulība.

Vienā dienā Koko un Riko uzveda tā, kā Gertrūde bija līgusi. Viņi bija laipni, patkami, izpalīdzīgi, tīri un prātīgi žurku puikas, kas sāka patiesību un citiem velta vienīgi labus vārdus. Dažbrīd tā rīkojies nebija viegli, tad Koko un Riko paskatījās uz saviem spoži baltajiem spārnieniem, pāvēcināja tos un sajuta spēku turpināt būt jaukiem. Kārotos našķus viņi bija tikpat kā nopelnījuši...

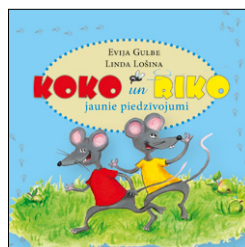
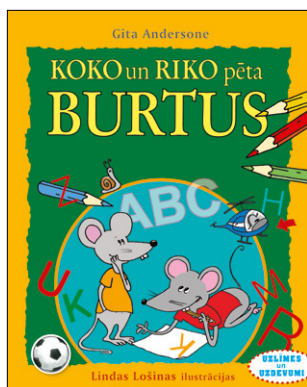
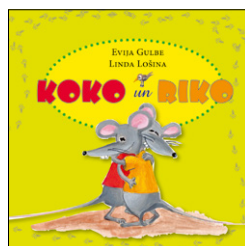
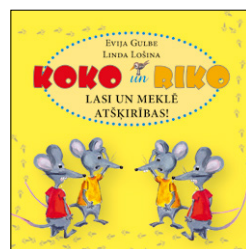
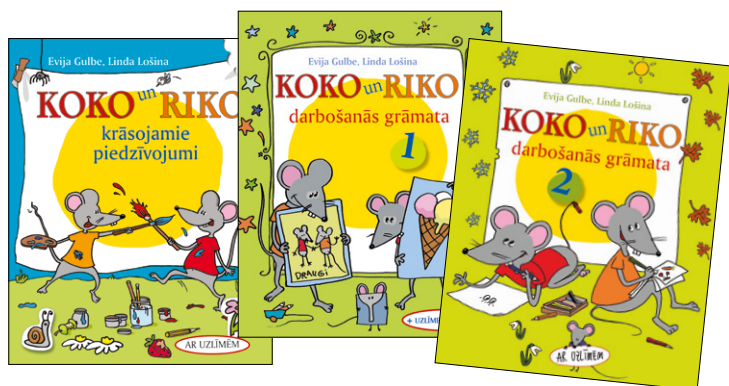


24



"Žurcīņ, mana debestī!'" Gertrūde ievaidejis un atkrita krēslā. Viņas pārsteigto acu priekšā noplīvoja tik rūpīgi kop-tais un saudzētais, no vecvecvecmāmiņas mantotais snieg-baltais galdauts, kam pašā vidī kā pēc lielgabalu šāviņiem bija uzradušies divi iespaidīgi caurumi. Žurkas tos pētīja, cita citu apbrīnāja, dažas pat mēģināja zilēt, kā tādi tur gadījušies.

25



The colouring, activity and sticker books of this series include a lot of funny scenes from the life of the rat family. In the company of the two little rats, children can have fun and learn some useful skills – to distinguish colours, to know letters, figures and opposites, to take first steps to writing, and get acquainted with mathematics and life sciences. This way they will learn easily, through play.

Colouring, activity, tasks, stickers, education, humour

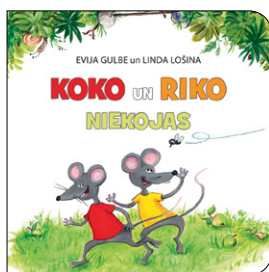
BOARD BOOKS FOR BABIES

Evija Gulbe, Linda Lošina

KOKO UN RIKO NIEKOJAS

KOKO AND RIKO ARE HAVING FUN

The book tells the story of a cheerfully and lazily spent day with pancake eating. When the day ends, someone has to wash dishes, and it's not so much fun.



9789934087028

9789934087035

Age 1,5+

20 × 20 cm

10 pages

KOKO UN RIKO SAPŅO PAR VASARU

KOKO AND RIKO DREAM OF SUMMER

The book tells about two little rats who have caught a cold. In order to feel better on a cold winter day Koko and Riko dream about summer activities.



Pictures, playing, humour, education, safety



ANETE BAJĀRE-BABČUKA

Latvian artist who has studied sculpture and graphics in the Art Academy of Latvia. She enjoys reading and illustrating books and likes making illustrations by hand, using watercolour and pencil. The artist is inspired by disorderly nurseries, accidental compositions of still life in strange homes, and different secretly observed situations. Her greatest source of inspiration is her two daughters, and she likes to memorialise the scenes of their everyday life and the best sets of clothing in her illustrations.

Nominations:

Jānis Baltvilks international Prize for children's literature for the Baltic Sea countries and the book art competition "Golden Apple-tree" in 2022.



Evija Gulbe

ZAĶĒNS, KURAM NEBIJA VĀRDU

THE BUNNY WHO HAD NO WORDS

Illustrator Anete Bajāre-Babčuka

There are so many words in the world! But Bunny does not have any. He has friends who help him to look for the words. The forest animals find different words, but they are not Bunny's words. When there are no words, then paws, ears and heart speak.

This book will help children to get acquainted with animals and plants, and learn to express what is deep in their heart. Even when there are no words.

Picture book, Animals, fable, emotions, friendship, awareness

Full English translation available.

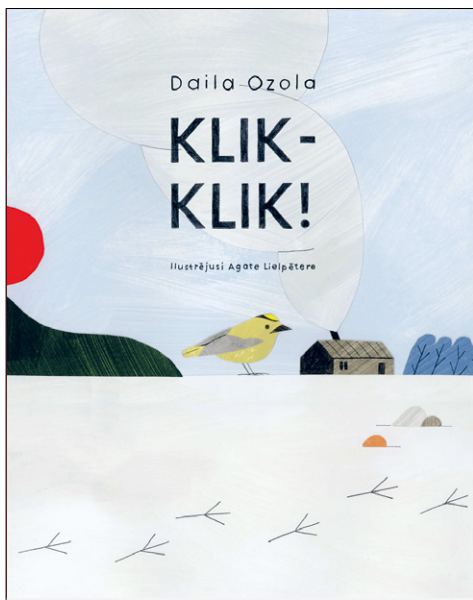


9789934095573

Age 4+

26,5 x 21 cm

56 pages



Daila Ozola

KLIK-KLIK!

CLICK-CLICK!

Illustrator **Agate Lielpētere**

"CLICK-CLICK!" is a story about human interaction with nature for preschool and primary school children. Its main character – Europe's smallest bird, the goldfinch – searches for the cause of an unusual sound in a snowy forest and meets a lot of other birds wintering close to him. The author is trying to show not only the diversity of the language, but also to maintain the tension of the storyline. The book has been scrupulously made, witty and gorgeous pictures in the application technique.

Full English translation available.



DAILA OZOLA

is a translator and writer. She has studied biology, pedagogy and literary writing and worked as a teacher in a Waldorf preschool. She is also a keen gardener. Currently, Daila is translating fiction from the Estonian language. "Clik-Clik" is her first book.

This book is designed in cooperation with the Latvian Nature Museum ornithologist Dmitrijs Boiko, who believes that "CLIK-CLIK!" is an excellent study material for the first steps in ornithology.



AGATE LIELPĒTERE

Agate Lielpētere is a visual artist, illustrator, and designer. She holds a BA degree in graphic art from the Art Academy of Latvia and is currently undergoing MA studies in contemporary visual practices, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her work can be described as diverse and witty. Agate states that her "bad sense of humor" runs in the family – blame them!

This book
is published
in Latvian
and Ukrainian
languages.

Picture book,
animals, fable,
nature, birds,
emotions.



9789934098574

Age 4+

27 x 21 cm

44 pages



IEVA MELGALVE

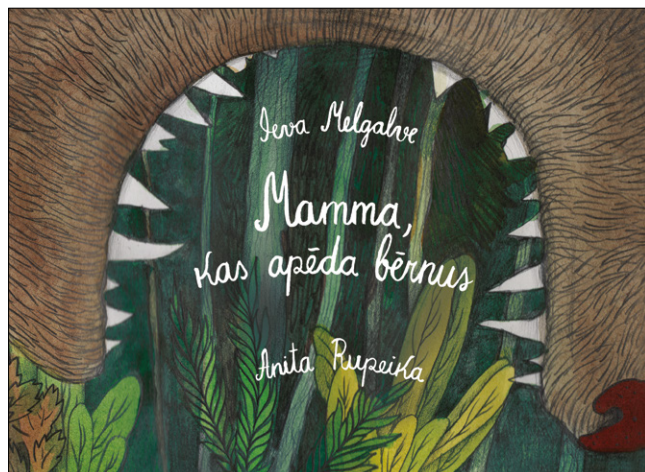
Ieva Melgalve is primarily a writer of science fiction and fantasy, with influences of literary and experimental genres. Her first short story and stage play collection *the Point of No Losses* (Bezzaudējumu punkts) was published in 1999. In 2013, SF stage play *Inhumanity* (Necilvēki) was self-published, and a fantasy novel *the Dead Do Not Forgive* (Mirusie nepiedod) was published and subsequently nominated for the Annual Latvian Literary Award. Her book *Arrow, Star and Laee* (Bulta, Zvaigzne un Lai) was published in 2014, also shortlisted for the Annual Latvian Literature Award. Ieva's most current works are the detective novel *Cool Mind* (2018) and two picture books for children *Mommy Who Ate Children* (2017) and *the Real People* (2019).

9789934069703

Age 3–6

17 × 23 cm

32 pages



Ieva Melgalve. MAMMA, KAS APĒDA BĒRŅUS

THE MUMMY WHO ATE CHILDREN

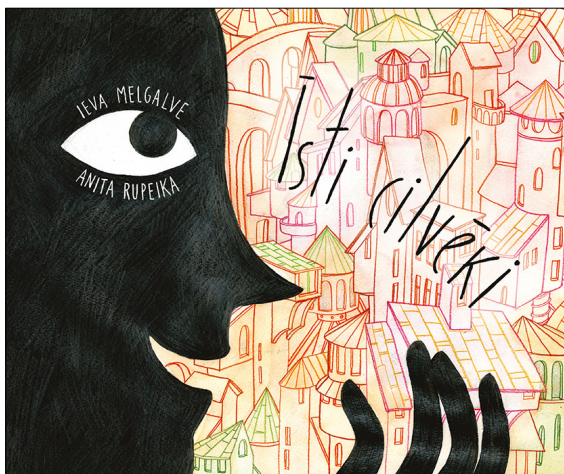
Illustrator Anita Rupeika

Once upon a time there lived a mum who ate children... No, it is not a horror tale, but a funny picture book to read and enjoy together with your child. The book helps children understand that eventually they will grow up and learn to be independent. After spending time together in laughter and game ("I am going to eat you now!") it is high time to hug each other!

Full English translation available.

Picture book, games, little children





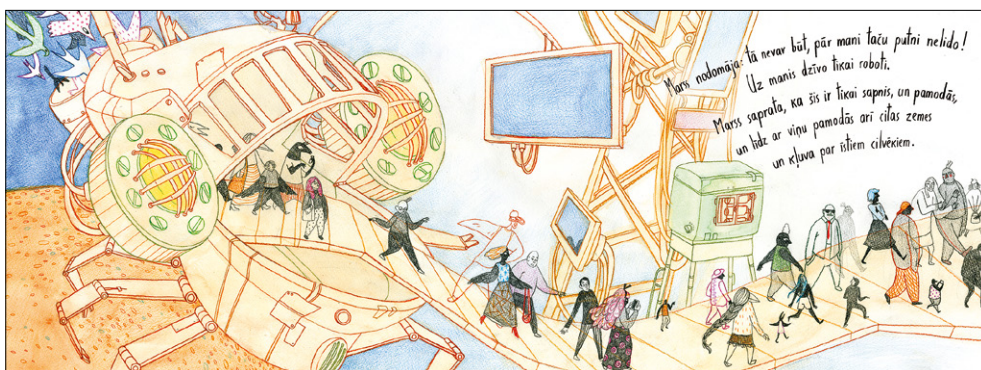
Ieva Melgalve, Anita Rupeika. ĪSTI CILVĒKI

THE REAL PEOPLE

Illustrator Anita Rupeika

The unusual and witty story of real people created by writer Ieva Melgalve is highly contemporary. It will develop children's vivid and abstract thinking skills. Its multilayered views make the book interesting for adults, too. The illustrations by artist Anita Rupeika perfectly complement the author's idea and highlight the book's multidimensionality.

Contemporary illustrated children's books, discussion



ANITA RUPEIKA

Anita is a Latvian illustrator of children's books and an animation and comics artist.

As an illustrator of fairy tales and stories she also remembers to indulge the child that dwells within every adult, as her works are meant not just for children but also their parents and all other grown-up fairy tale readers.

Anita's works have been exhibited both in Latvia and abroad – in a comics festival in Belgrade, Serbia (2016) and in the Biennial of Illustrations in Bratislava, Slovakia (2017).

9789934079320

Age 5–8

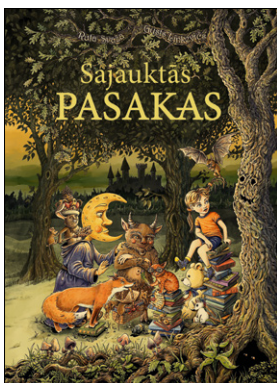
29.5 × 24 cm

32 pages



RUTA SVAŽA

is a writer and translator. She is the author of a series of exciting picture books about a little girl Baiba. Incredible, thrilling adventures, which take place in the real and dream world, make young readers to think of friendship, devotion, bravery, and sense of responsibility, as well as they teach children to create their own fantasy world. "Mixed Up Fairy Tales" and "Mouseson the Wise" are her latest works.



Fantasy, humour, adventure, encourages reading

Ruta Svaža

SAJAUKTĀS PASAKAS

MIXED UP FAIRY-TALES

Illustrator **Gusts Linkevičs**

The author brings us into a situation created by original fantasy, where the characters of several fairy tales are *mixed up*. This is an opportunity to encourage a child to read all the popular fairy-tales used in the story.

Full English

translation

available.

Rights sold:

Estonian

9789934083747

Age 5+

35 x 25 cm

20 pages



GUSTS LINKEVIČS

is a programmer and illustrator. His illustrations stimulate children's interest in reading.

Ruta Svaža. PELESDĒLS GUDRINIEKS

MOUSESON THE WISE

Illustrator **Gusts Linkevičs**

Incredible, but, yes, a little mouse tries to save its homeland, the Deep Forest, from death – eternal darkness. On the risky way, he meets funny and quite dangerous creatures, some of them are friends, others – enemies. Mouseson experiences a lot of dramatic adventures travelling through Deep Forest to Giant Monster's house hidden in faraway mountains. Nobody really believes in Mouseson's success...

English sample translation available.

Fantasy, humor, adventure, encourages reading

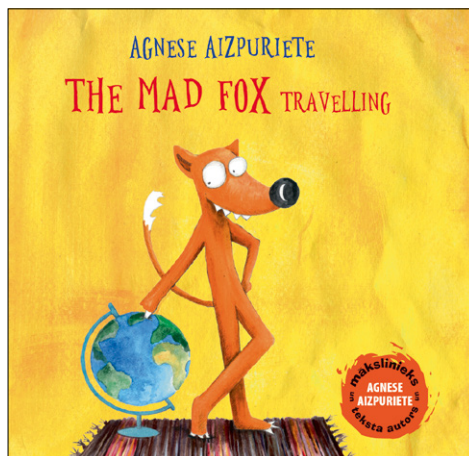
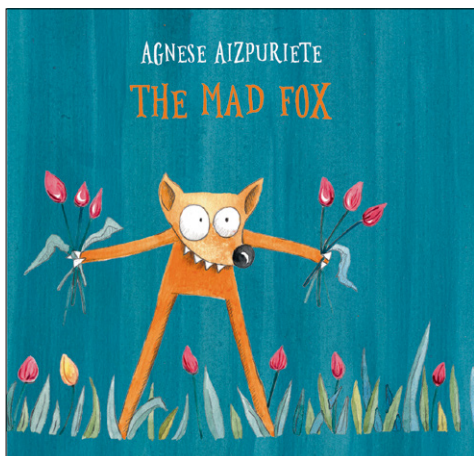


9789934313783

Age 6+

22 x 15 cm

152 pages



AGNESE AIZPURIETE

In 2010, an artist obtained a Master's degree in Fine Arts. She has been working as a graphic designer for Deloitte for more than 7 years.

In 2008, she illustrated books for the Classical Music Academy (USA). In 2017, the Latvian publishing house Zvaigzne ABC published Agnese's illustrations in two books about the Mad Fox, these books also being her debut as a writer. In 2019, a cartoon about the Mad Fox was released.

Translated into English.

Agnese Aizpuriete

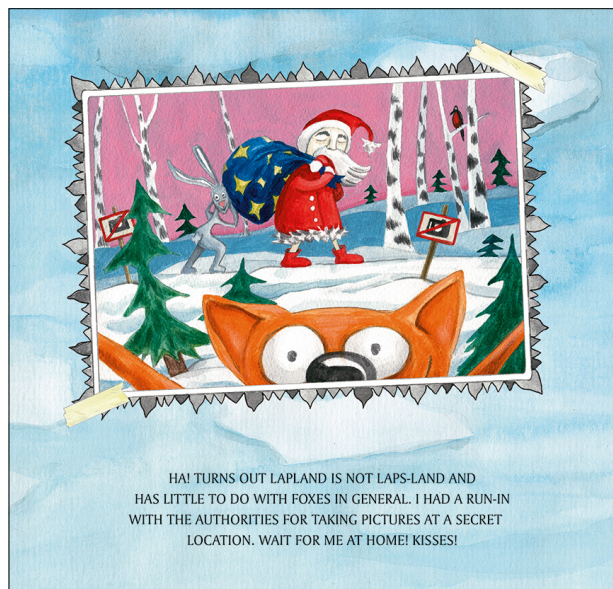
THE MAD FOX

THE MAD FOX TRAVELLING

Illustrator Agnese Aizpuriete

Agnese made her debut in children's literature with the book *the Mad Fox*. It has wonderful illustrations, created by the author, plenty of witty humour for children as well as irony for grown-up readers. The second book *the Mad Fox Travelling* is just as witty as the first one.

Humour, irony, debut, modern children's literature



9789934071607

9789934071614

Age 3–6

21.5 × 22 cm

28 pages



LAIMA BIKŠE

is a painter, an illustrator and an author. She has regularly participated in exhibitions since 1995 and has had personal exhibitions in Riga, Berlin and Leipzig. Laima draws and paints in a variety of techniques; her work characteristically involves contrast – gentle fragility interchanges with bright vitality. She has published two books for children and is currently working on the third one.



Laima Bikše

GRĀMATA PAR ZILO ZIRDZIŅU

STORY OF THE BLUE HORSE

Illustrator Laima Bikše

One day, the little blue horse feels a great sadness and decides to help himself – go and find something enjoyable. Finally, the little horse understands that his sadness has turned to joy as he has helped the mouse, the duck and the cow he has met along the way. The book invites the readers to discuss the ways we understand and recognize our emotions.

Animals, fable, discussion, emotions, awareness



Zirdziņš noliecās un pastiepa kāju, pa kuru pele ar visām vārpām žigli uztrausās uz muguras.

– Tad tik turies pie krēpēm un nenokrīt! – iesaucās zirdziņš un uzņēma ātrumu.

– Ju-hūūt! – pele sajūsmā spiedza. – Tu nu gan esi varens nīkšotājā!

Zirdziņš nopriecājās no tādu dzirdēt un pielika vēl soli.

Ļoti ātri viņi bija kļāt pie peles mājas, kas atradās diķa malā vecā vitola saknēs. Zirdziņš apsēdās, lai pele varētu nokāpt.

– Tas tik bija brauciens! – pele iesaucās un nošļūca pa zirdziņa muguru kā pa slidkalniņu.

– Āāā, – zirdziņš novilkā, un tajā pašā mirkli viņam prātā ienāca kāda ideja. – Vai zini, pele, es tevi varētu aizvest uz mājām! Man tāpat jāiet uz to pusi.

Pele saprata, ka šis tielām ir labs priekšlikums.

– Tas būtu jauki! – Viņa pasmaidīja.



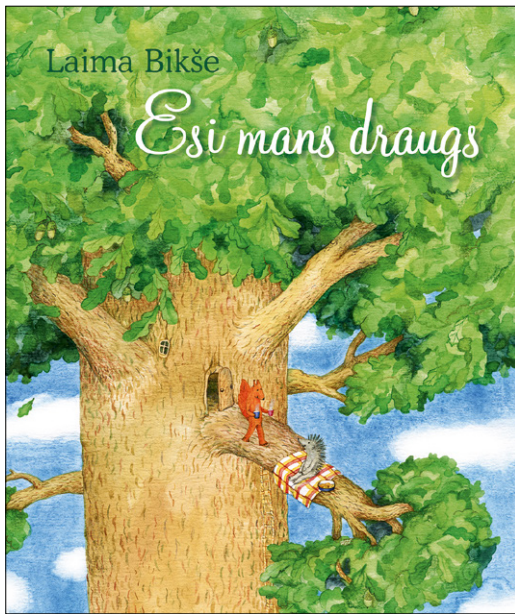
Zirdziņš palīdzēja pelei aiznest vārpas līdz pašām durvīm, iekšā gan viņš negāja, jo tās bija ļoti mazas durtiņas, pa kurām varētu iespraucīties tikai viena auss. Bet ko gan auss bez zirga darītu ciemos pie peles?

9789934079788

Age 4–8

30 × 25 cm

32 pages



Laima Bikše.

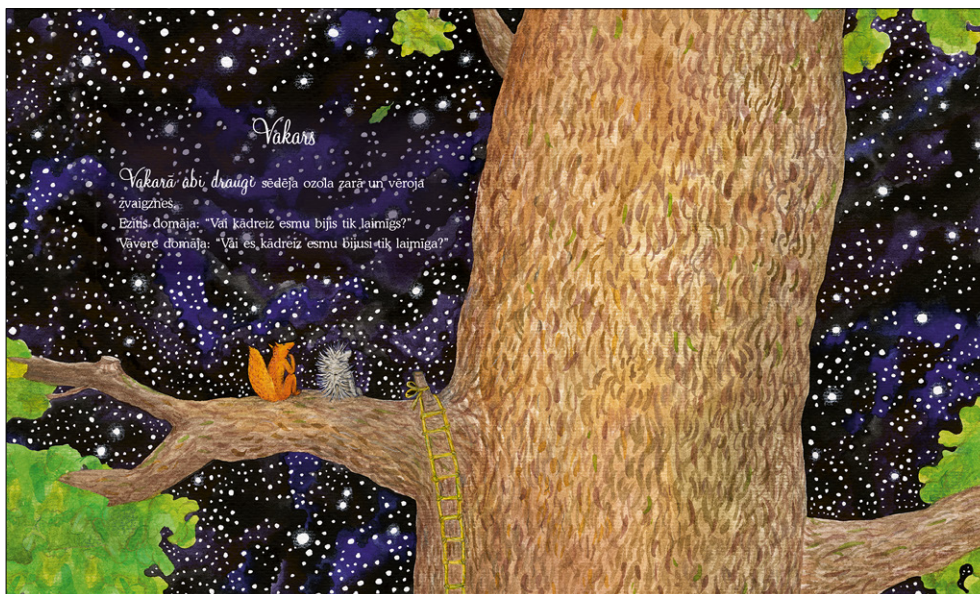
ESI MANS DRAUGS

BE MY FRIEND

Illustrator **Laima Bikše**

A lonely Squirrel meets a little Hedgehog as she looks for chestnuts. They become friends and understand that the opportunity to surprise and delight a friend is what makes one truly happy. The book invites the reader to discussion about finding and keeping true friendship.

Animals, fable, discussion, friendship, selflessness



9789934009235

Age 4–8

30 x 21 cm

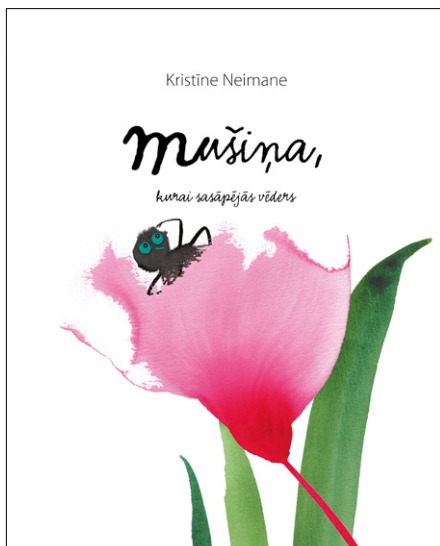
24 pages

The books help children experience complicated emotions in an easy way together with their parents. The books will help overcome the everyday challenges.



KRISTĪNE NEIMANE

Kristīne has graduated from the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology of the University of Latvia. Kristīne is optimistic and loves nature and children. They inspire her and teach her to notice things that the people usually forget when growing up.



Kristīne Neimane

MUŠIŅA, KURAI SASĀPĒJĀS VĒDERS

THE FLY WHO GOT A TUMMY ACHE

Illustrator Ieva Maurīte

In a rainy summer, it's hard for bees to collect nectar and make honey for the whole winter. Three flies decide to help the bees. But it is not as easy as the cordial trio thought at first.

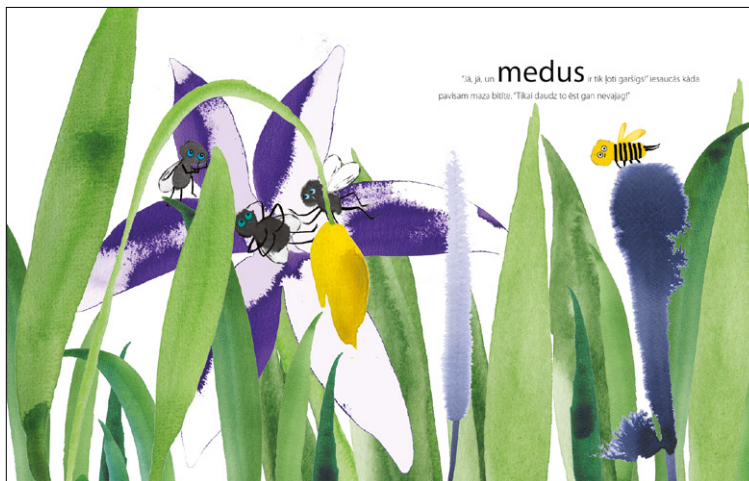
Fairy-tales, friendship, helpfulness,
education



IEVA MAURĪTE

is the author of many illustrated books of exceptional quality. She has developed a very personal artistic expression which cannot be confused with any other.

An artist obtained her Master of Arts degree in Fine Arts at the Art Academy of Latvia.



9789934083730

Age 5+

27 x 21 cm

28 pages

Kristīne Neimane

ROLIS UN BRUNIS IEPAZĪST PASAULI

ROLIS AND BRUNIS GO EXPLORING

Illustrator **Olga Gogole**

Rolis and Brunis are two little snails. All the snails in the forest have their own houses decorated with different colours and patterns. Not everyone is glad about this variety.

Adventures, friendship, curiosity, diversity,

faith in positive changes



"Māte! Tuvājas vakars, un mums jābēdina uz savu pļaviņu!" Rolis uzsūnāja draugu Brunis samīgojoties jautājums. "Nu, vai uzsūnāji, kas tur spīd?" Rolis pastāstīja, ko redzēja, un tūlīt lūkots pēc savas mājiņas, bet – kāds neļiem! – nekā! To norecēja. Abi draugi norisoties izlēnāja apdēvēti ap tuvākiem kociņiem un kuciem, iekārtotās kara bēdēt un parocīgās aiz akmeņiem: ne mājās nebija ne mīļi!



OLGA GOGOLE

An artist who graduated from the Riga School of Design and Art and the Art Academy of Latvia. She is a fine artist, graphic designer and illustrator. Olga's work is a clear combination of traditional watercolour and graphite pencil. She also draws digitally with a pen tablet in Photoshop.

9789934071584

Age 3–6

27 × 21 cm

24 pages

Kristīne Neimane

ZIRNEKLĪTIS NUMUR 13 JEB LAIMĪGAIS

SPIDER NUMBER 13 OR LUCKY

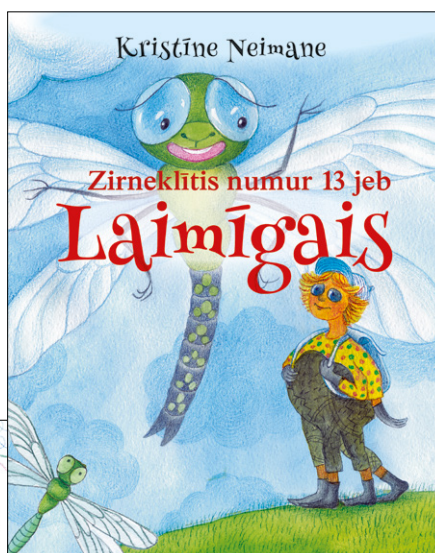
Illustrator **Irēna Žguta**

Among the 13 spiders in his family, Brencis is the youngest. He is a bit careless but very curious, sincere and polite. These qualities are helping him to make great friends during his first long journey. Did the number "13" help him on his journey as well?

Fairy-tales, friendship, helpfulness, education



— Ātri, ātri gatavojieties vēlānai uz tīrli! — skāli sauc Zirnēklītis Mamma. Bez stāles būs ne nekādi, jo bērns vairs dzīvē. Ir jau drošs, kas vai kucējam zirnēklis jūmežs, bet ar šī nebija no mazajiem — Mammai apkārt kūņojas veseli mīļotie draugi. Lai nebūtu varāktārt jūku vienu un tas pats, viņa to vērtēti dēģi stāli. Zirnēklis Mamma vēlēti atgādā: — Neaizmēti savas mugurpārtas un pārbaudiet, vai tajās ir mēris sūti: kārāktārti, cērtu lapa lērtāti vasa piliens, lai būtu, ko padzerties, kad slāpēt! Un pats galvenais — uzticēti cērtas, lai nesāktar saules dārtiem! Vīna šodien spīd ātri vārti, tālāi vārtēti saules cērtas.



IRĒNA ŽGUTA

is an advertising artist and illustrator. She works with graphic design, advertising and promotional materials for exhibitions and events. She has created designs for numerous books, calendars, booklets etc. She is an author of illustrations mostly for children's books and textbooks. Irēna's illustrations appeal to the reader and viewer, encouraging a personal conversation with the literary characters.

9789934095238

Age 5+

27 × 21 cm

28 pages



LAURA VINOGRADOVA

writes prose and poetry both for children and adults, often touching upon topics related to ethics and "uncomfortable" questions. Laura has won the prize in Kurzeme Prose Readings as well as the first place in the fairy tale competition by Kārlis Ķezbers. You can listen to Laura's works in her own fascinating voice on her website as well as on her YouTube profile.

Awards for Laura Vinogradova and her works:

Shortlisted for the Annual Latvian Literature Award for the novel Upe (The River)

European Union Prize for Literature 2021 for the novel Upe (The River)

Nominated for the Annual Latvian Literature Award for the story for children Tētis un suns (Dad and the Dog)



Laura Vinogradova

TĒTIS UN SUNS

DAD AND THE DOG

Illustrator Ieva Maurīte

Magda is a small girl with two ash-blond braids. She was eight on her last birthday, back in the springtime, and yesterday was her last day in the first grade. This morning, Magda wakes up in a good mood, looking forward to her summer holidays.

This is a heartfelt story for the whole family about the things that are the most important and valuable in everyone's life. We all guess what it is, but we can't always name it.

Laura Vinogradova is an unparalleled storyteller. Her language flows like music, and the books appear as if by themselves.

Nominations for "Dad and the Dog"

Jānis Baltvilks international Prize for children's literature for the Baltic Sea countries and the book art competition "Golden Apple-tree" in 2022



Neslapini grīdu! – Anne vēl pārgudri noteic un nepievērs Magdai nekādu uzmanību.
Magda uzmanīgi nes spainīti ar ūdeni līdz dārzam, tomēr gandrīz puse pa ceļam ir izlijusi. Tas nekas, Magda nodomā, jo katram stādiņam tiek kāda ūdens lāse.
– Es rīt atnesīšu vēl, – viņa tiem apsola un nogulšas zemē pie sava pirmā dārza.
Gulīgi un vēro savus gurkus, zemei un skaistos tomātus. Atlido un brīnās arī pirmās bites. Kas to būtu domājis! Te, aiz vecajiem malkas šķūņiem, kaut kas aug!
– Es esmu viena laimīga Magda! – viņa priecīgi nosmej, jo vairs tik ļoti nedomā par tēti.



9879934092190

Age 7+

22,5 x 15 cm

48 pages



Parental love,
growth, harmony,
beauty of the world

9789934067976

Age 3-9

30 x 23 cm

48 pages

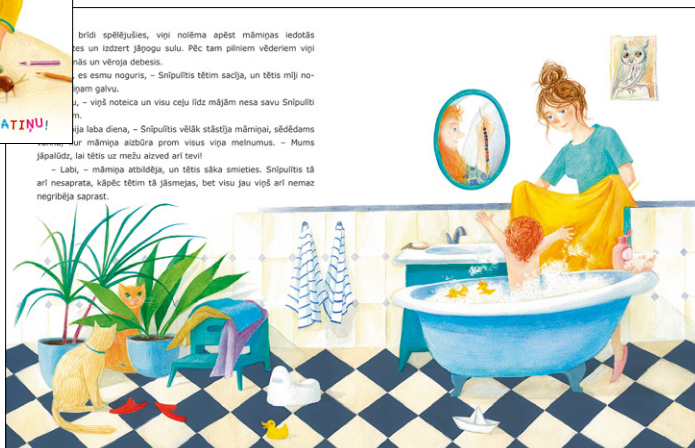
Laura Vinogradova

SNĪPULĪTIS NO SNĪPUĻCIEMA

LITTLE SNĪPULIS AND HIS VILLAGE

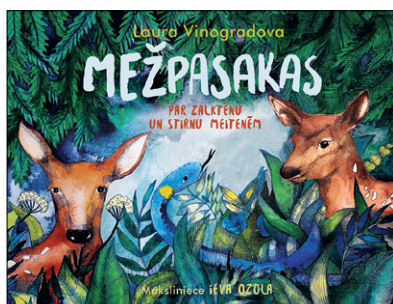
Illustrator **Una Leitāne**

This is a story about growing up in tune with the natural rhythms of the seasons and family life, experiencing both daily work and celebrations. The main characters of the book are "snīpuļi", humanlike creatures with funny noses.



UNA LEITĀNE

Una is an illustrator and a painter. For her, illustration is a way to live in the world of imagination. Over the last fifteen years, Una has illustrated a series of children's books, textbooks and postcards. Her illustrations are hand-drawn/painted, with attention to detail. Education: Art Academy of Latvia, Master's degree in Fine Arts, Painting.



Laura Vinogradova

MEŽPASAKAS. PAR ZALKTĒNU UN STIRNU MEITENĒM

FOREST TALES. ABOUT THE LITTLE GRASS SNAKE AND TWO DOES

MEŽPASAKAS. PAR MEŽA SUSURI, SKUDRĀM, VILCENI UN PŪCES BĒRNU

FOREST TALES. ABOUT THE FOREST DORMOUSE, ANTS, WOLFGIRL AND BABY OWL

Illustrator **Ieva Ozola**



9789934081859

9789934078637

Age 4+ ; 21 x 27 cm

46 pages

In the forest, just as in the human world, there are problems both finding one's way and being accepted. And even a human child can learn from the animals how to find and keep his path. The message of fairy tales is coloured in warmth and lightness and full of humour. The brave artist Forest Dormouse reveals a great truth about saying NO. The busy family of ants shows how openness can set you free. Wolfgirl and the curious Baby Owl tell you how to believe in yourself and achieve the impossible. Little does discover that Love has no rules and limitations.

Acceptance, love, setting boundaries, self-confidence, humour



IEVA OZOLA

began her studies in 2007 at the Riga Design and Art School in Latvia. In Prague, she studied Graphic Design at Prague City University where she earned recognition from both local and national press. During her freelance career, she received various commissions to work with brands, restaurants and private orders across the world. Currently she is working as a Product Designer and resides in Norway.



ARNO JUNDZE

The popular Latvian journalist and writer Arno Jundze has authored three books for children, a fantasy novel for young adults, a collection of stories and three novels for grown-ups. His books have earned a number of positive reviews from readers and book reviewers alike, and several of his children's books have been included in the Children's Reading programme of the year.



KRISTĪNE MARTINOVA

is an illustrator of the new generation who pays great attention to creating the mood of the book. She studied at the Art Academy of Latvia. She made her debut as a children's book illustrator with Arno Jundze's story *Shushnirk and the Kid from Totland*. While studying for the Master's degree, Kristīne paid particular attention to the illustration of the books. In 2020, in the framework of the Bologna Book Fair, she participates in the exhibition *What happened until now?*.

Arno Jundze

ŠUŠNIRKS UN PAZEMES BUBUĻI

SHUSHNIRK AND THE KID FROM TOTLAND

Illustrator Agnese Aizpuriete

Shushnirk and the Kid from Totland is the third children's novel that depicts events in the imaginary Totland.

The story of a land of unusual creatures called Totland, where the aristocratic Shushnirk is unexpectedly left to care for a playful little kid whose parents have vanished unexpectedly in a tornado.

Exhausted by the kid's antics, Shushnirk sets out with his ward on a journey full of adventure to find his parents.

Adventure, children's storybook, friendship, humour



9789934079207

Age 9+

25 x 18 cm

144 pages



DZINTARS TILAKS

Dzintars Tilaks is a radio journalist, moderator, editor, producer and DJ. At the moment he is working as the producer of the Radio Theatre. He is the author of 20 books for children and adults and has also illustrated a few of his books. Dzintars Tilaks's works have been nominated several times for "Baltvilka blava", the most prestigious Latvian award in children's literature. Several of his works have won the main prize in the annual "Jury of children, youth and parents" organized by the National Library of Latvia and some of his books are even included as recommended reading for national schools.

His latest novel for young readers "Zlata's Journey" (10+) has been on the bestselling titles list from the moment it was published and has received the highest praise from the national press.

ZLATA'S JOURNEY (ZLATAS CEĻŠ)

In the statistics, the number of children killed in the Russia-Ukraine war are stated matter-of-factly. But how many other children have been the victims of this war; their health compromised for life and their loved ones lost? How many children have had to say farewell to their childhoods and be forced into adulthood in matter of months, in order simply to survive? These figures will not emerge for years to come, maybe never at all.

This book was inspired by the author's meeting with a Ukrainian family he hosted in his family home and who, during their stay, recounted to him their experiences and memories. Many details and figures in the book are based on real events whereas others are fictional.

Zlata and her father leave their home in Merefa in the Ukrainian region of Harkiv for the house of friends. Once there, Zlata meets her friend Olenka and the two girls talk about the events of the war and discuss the difficulties of the long distance learning they must now follow in order to complete their Grade 7 studies. The girls are angry with the adults for not telling them the truth about the course of the war and both are deeply worried about their respective fathers. Zlata's father is a National Security IT specialist, a job which counts as military service, while Olenka's father is employed by a utility service unit, charged with reconditioning decommissioned heating, electricity and water systems.

As the fighting draws closer, their friends, the Berezhins, decide to journey to the home of relatives and the girls

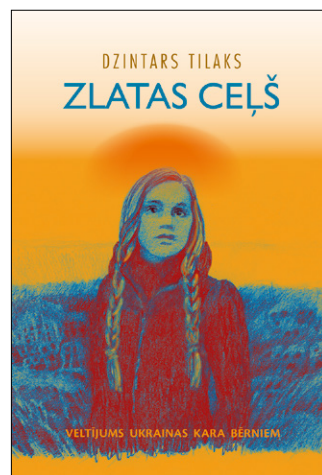
are separated. Zlata and her father, Dmytro, are soon also on the move again, this time to another village in the Harkiv region in search of Zlata's grandmother whom they have been unable to contact by phone. Zlata insists on going with her father, not wanting to be left behind on her own, but along the way he leaves her to wait for his and her grandmother's return and continues on his own.

However, her father fails to return that evening and not even the following day; neither does he answer her phone calls. At this point, Zlata resolves to search for her grandmother herself and sets off on a journey which, unbeknown to her at the outset, will take her over the frontier of Ukraine and into a small town in Latvia – Tukums.

From the very start of her journey, Zlata is aware of the military check points along the main routes and so follows secondary roads until she comes to a large nature reserve. There she meets an elderly hunter whose home has been destroyed and who now sleeps in a deserted camping hut, going out to hunt every evening and stealing from the enemy in revenge for the murder of his fellow villagers.

The hunter promises Zlata that he will go to her grandmother's home under the cover of night and try to find out what has become of her. He returns with the tragic news that the house has been reduced to rubble and that her grandmother has been killed and buried in her own garden.

The following day, Zlata resolves to go and see for herself. As she reaches



English sample translation
available

9789934314308

Age 10+

22 x 15 cm

144 pages

the highway, she is met with the terrifying sight of burnt out cars bearing many bullet holes. Amongst these cars, she sees that of her father. Traces of blood on the car and freshly dug earth by the side of the road, clearly shallow graves, are testament to the fact that people have been killed and buried right there, by the side of the road. The dreadful truth that she has lost her father dawns on Zlata, along with the realisation that her carefree childhood is over and nothing will ever be the same again. From now on, she is all alone and must take care of herself.

Searching for somewhere to spend the night, Zlata finds a country dwelling on the outskirts of a village where she meets Nona, a Tatarian from Crimea. Nona tells her that enemy forces are stationed on the other side of the village where they are requisitioning and castigating the locals. The following day, Zlata tries to continue her journey but is apprehended by the Russian Army at a check point. Their intention is to send Zlata, along with the other woman and children from the village, towards Russia. Despite hearing that checks are made of the digital contents of all electronic devices, she decides not to delete the photos of her father in military uniform from her phone and, by an act of subterfuge, succeeds in hiding her phone and then fleeing. The plan is successful but Zlata is unable to return for her hidden phone. Nona then cuts Zlata's long hair and dresses her in her son's clothes in the hope it will make her safer on her journey.

With the sandwiches Nona has given her, Zlata sets off; she needs to try and reach Kramatorsk and from there board one of the trains taking refugees to Lviv and then across the Polish border and on into Latvia.

Zlata's mother had died some months previously. She had named her Zlata, or Zeltite, meaning gold in Latvian, her mother tongue. With both parents now dead, the only family left to Zlata are grandparents in Latvia. Without a phone, there is no way of calling them so the only option is to embark on the journey to Latvia.

She meets a host of characters along the way, spending the chilly spring nights wherever she finds a safe haven and a little warmth.

She spends one night in an abandoned church and another in a sauna house. Another night, sheltering in a shed, she finds herself in the midst of an air raid. She runs from the shed and takes refuge in the basement of a house where the owners are also sheltering. The son gives Zlata a bicycle to help her on her way and an elderly man gives her a map providing useful directions.

The following night, Zlata again takes refuge in a shed but she has developed a terrible cough and is unable to sleep. In the morning, she is found by an elderly Russian woman who takes her in and nurses her back to

health. She has cut all ties with her daughter in Moscow; convinced as she is that there is no war and the Russian troops in Ukraine are liberators. The elderly Russian is angry and indignant at this 'liberation', seeing as people in Ukraine are dying regardless of nationality.

Zlata continues her journey. Cycling, it is obviously easier to travel along the highways but Zlata is again intercepted at a Russian check point. Just as she is about to have her bicycle confiscated and get sent to a refugee camp in Izjum, a carload of refugees pulls up and Zlata manages to grab her bike and disappear.

That night is spent in an abandoned school where Zlata meets more people, each of whom has a different story, situation and attitude to the war. Zlata learns that Kramatorsk station has been damaged in an air raid but decides to continue in that direction, having no other options open to her.

She eventually reaches Kramatorsk where she gives her bike to a doctor and boards a train.

Crammed full of refugees, the train departs for western Ukraine. The carriages remain unlit so as not to be a visible target for enemy planes yet the passengers remain in good spirits, sharing food and life stories.

When the train terminates in Lviv, Zlata takes a bus to the Polish border. She lends a hand to a mother and her two children and, as they get chatting, she discovers they are also headed for Riga, Latvia.

When Zlata finally reaches Riga she is taken to the refugee reception centre where she learns that locating her grandparents will be no easy task. The last time she saw them was when she was just six years old and she doesn't know their address; she can't even remember the name of their village. Added to which, her grandparents' surname is one of the most common in Latvia. It is only with the help of a volunteer worker in the centre that Zlata's fragmented childhood memories are somehow pieced together and they are able to locate her grandparents' address in Tukums.

Zlata is given the warmest of welcomes by her grandparents and the sense of homecoming, love and peace are almost overwhelming. But in her mind, Zlata is still in Ukraine and she is haunted by the wish to return and give her loved ones a proper burial. One day, Grandma comes to Zlata almost beside herself with joy – she has received a phone call and Dmytro is alive! He had been picked up on the roadside after the attack by passers-by and taken to the local hospital where he received life-saving treatment. As soon as he was well enough, he had started looking for his daughter but all to no avail. Eventually, he gave up and decided to call his in-laws to tell them their granddaughter was missing, only to find that she was safe and sound there in Latvia with them! Dmytro and Zlata then delight in a joyful reunion.

DADDY BUCKSTER (PAPUS TRU)

This heart-warming tale about a courageous rabbit is based on a true story the author, Dzintars Tilaks, came across on a social media site. A woman from Ukraine, Ivanna, had posted an extraordinary account of a rabbit and his unusual friends.

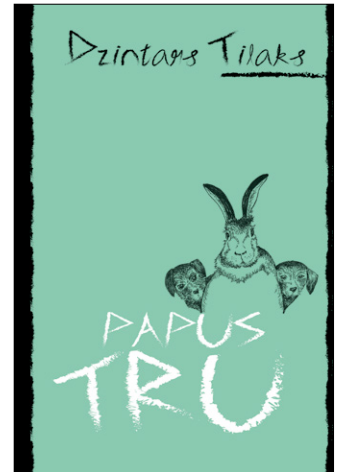
The story set the author thinking. It went against the usual perception of rabbits lacking in intelligence and only having their soft fur to commend them. The idea that their expressions never give away any emotion, be it anger or contentment, and that they merely view the world around them with indifference; such simple creatures.

Buckster is one of a litter of twelve baby rabbits who seemingly all accept their lot in life. But Buckster is different – inquisitive about his surroundings, daring and eager to explore the world from the moment he is born. One fine day he manages to open a hole in his hutch and embarks on a journey into the big wide world. He enjoys a feast in the garden but gradually gains enough confidence to venture further afield and see what else the world has to offer. He has to figure out how to survive on his own and is clever enough to make a home for himself. Winter comes and food becomes scarce but luckily, Buckster discovers a refuse container outside a local shop. From that moment on, he is a regular customer.

One day, he is surprised to discover that not only fruit and vegetables have been thrown into the refuse bin but two little puppies have been discarded there, too. Dauntless as ever, Buckster puts himself to the test and decides to father the helpless pups. Nature never ceases to amaze us. Not long afterwards, people start noticing the unusual trio and one kind family decides to take the puppies in, happily for Buckster as they have grown so much that his hole is now too small for all of them. Locals start questioning what should become of the amazing rabbit as everyone recognizes he deserves a good life. The nearby rabbit-breeding centre is contacted and the owner is happy to take in the enterprising rabbit. When they meet, something about the rabbit strikes the owner as familiar – the white fur and black markings, not to mention the rabbit's behaviour, are all reminiscent of the owner's runaway, Buckster. The breeder feels Buckster more than deserves not just a safe home and plenty of food but the freedom to roam freely on the farm, too.

A delightfully written true-life story of curiosity, intelligence, daring and, above all, compassion and friendship.

Translated by Žanete Vēvere Pasqualini



English sample translation

available

9789934084232

Age: 7+

22,5 × 15,5 cm

80 pages



9789934093142
9789934093128
9789934093166

Age 4+
22 x 22 cm
32 pages

Kristine Jacino

KUR RODAS CĪSIŅI UN DESAS?

**WHERE DO THE SAUSAGES
COME FROM?**

KUR RODAS PIENS?

**WHERE DOES THE MILK
COME FROM?**

KUR RODAS RUDZU MAIZE?

**WHERE DOES THE RYE BREAD
COME FROM?**

These books in a simple and funny manner show how our favorite food is made and its way to our table. Every book is accompanied by a witty, funny cartoon and a small test where kids can check their knowledge.

"If those in society are able to access and acquire knowledge during childhood, then in the future we will have a more courageous and compassionate society, which will in turn, demand that more in-depth knowledge is obtained, before tackling complex issues."

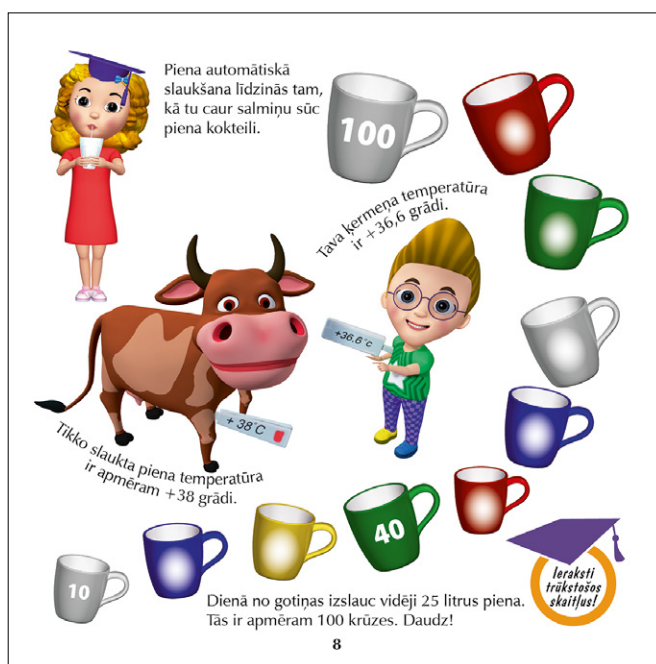
Kristine Jacino

English translations available.



KRISTINE JACINO

has a doctorate degree in food engineering and sixteen years of work experience in various food industries. All educational materials are created in cooperation with the Faculty of Food Technology of the Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologies and industry professionals. Kristine has a 9-year-old son who also participates in the creation of these materials.



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