

Found in Translation

European children's fiction translated into English



J. K. Rowling, Roald Dahl, Philip Pullman, Lewis Carroll, A. A. Milne, Julia Donaldson, Jacqueline Wilson...

We're fortunate in the UK to have so many great books for children to enjoy, created in English by writers from within these shores and abroad. So it's easy to forget the long tradition of equally wonderful children's stories that come from mainland Europe and originally penned in other languages. Just think of Hans Christian Andersen, the Brothers Grimm and some of the names you'll see on this list like Tove Jansson, Herge, Erich Kastner and Astrid Lindgren.

This list, compiled to coincide with our promotion of European writing for children, offers a snapshot of fiction originally written by authors in another European language then translated into English. "Translated" is the key word here as it explains why some seemingly obvious names for inclusion are missing, such as Austria-Hungary born Ludwig Bemelmans, whose Madeline books were originally written in English, not in his native German, and French author Clementine Beauvais, whose work crosses the ages from 0-16 but writes so much of her work in English.

The 70 titles here provide not only a mix across ages and countries, but show author versatility, different genres and formats, all-time classics (and potential future ones), plus some titles which, while familiar to the reader, may reveal a bit of a surprise. So, there's the all-time classic Heidi first published in 1880 alongside potential future classics such as Magritte's Apple. And how many people know that the twice-filmed Hollywood success The Parent Trap was based on a book by German author Erich Kastner, better known perhaps for his classic Emil and the Detectives? Looking down the list your reaction to seeing some of the titles may well be "I didn't know that was translated from another language".

Titles have been grouped into 3 age bands – 0-5, 5-8 and 8-11. This banding is of course only approximate and advisory as children often find books of interest to them both below or above their actual age. Where an author has written a sequential series, the first in the series is shown here.

The titles are in stock in Islington Libraries with the promotion being focused on 5 of our libraries - Archway, Central, Finsbury, N4 and South - and other titles by the listed authors may be reserved.

Book cover images shown may not reflect the edition of the title in our stock.

Ages 0 - 5



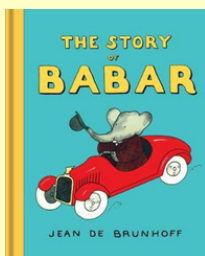
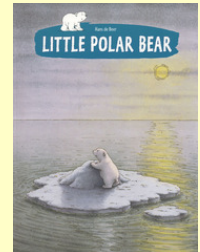
Beatrice Alemagna / The Marvellous Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty French

Eddie knows her mum would love a Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty for her birthday. The only problem is that she doesn't know what a Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty is, or where to find one! Join Eddie as she tours the whole town, trying to track down the perfect present.

Hans de Beer / Little Polar Bear

Dutch

Imagine what it would be like to be carried away to a hot, colourful land when all you have ever seen before is snow and ice. That's exactly what happens to Lars, the little polar bear.



Jean de Brunhoff / The Story of Babar

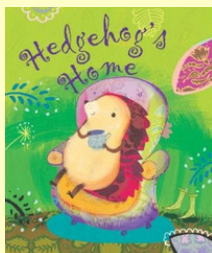
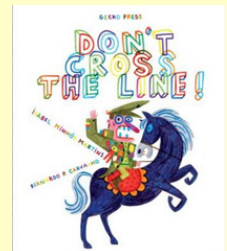
French

Meet Babar and learn how the little elephant is forced by fierce hunters to run away to the big city.

Bernardo Carvalho / Don't Cross the Line!

Portuguese

The guard always follows the general's orders without question. This time, the order is that no one must cross the line. The right-hand page of this book must be kept blank for the general. As the crowd builds up on the border, the guard is under pressure. If no one is allowed onto the next page, what will happen to the story?



Branko Copic / Hedgehog's Home

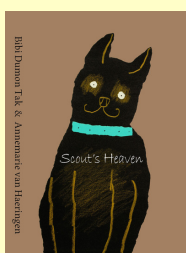
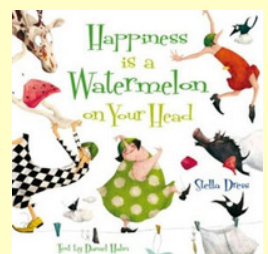
Serbo-Croat

Meet Hedgemond the Hunter, a brave and stubborn little hedgehog. Down in the wild woods he proudly tends to his beloved house, but some animals can't understand what the fuss is about. Find out just how Hedgemond proves to the grumpy bear and the greedy boar that there is no place like home.

Stella Dreis / Happiness is a Watermelon on Your Head

German (Bulgarian author)

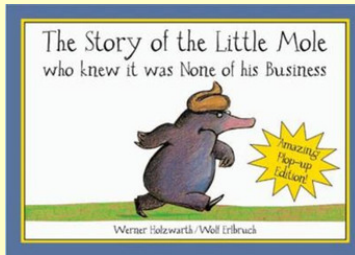
One ridiculously joyful lady, cauliflower hats, fish bonnets, other assorted crazy headgear, a few very large animals, a pet boar called Melvin and a whole lot of watermelons. Three miserable women discover that the key to happiness is very pink and very messy.



Bibi Dumon Tak / Scout's Heaven

Dutch

A family grieves the loss of their beloved dog, Scout. There's pouring rain when Scout dies but the family begins the terrible task of burying her. Then Little Brother hears the thunder rumble and realises it sounds just like Scout growling at the postman. He wonders where Scout is now - if she has food to eat, pigeons to chase, sticks to fetch. And his search for answers helps the whole family find a sense of peace.



Werner Holzwarth / The Story of the Little Mole Who Knew it Was None of His Business

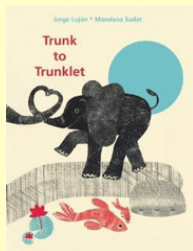
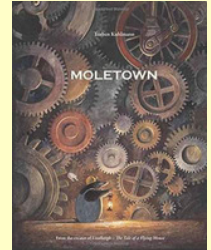
German

A terrible catastrophe befalls the little mole one bright, sunny morning. It looks a little like a sausage, and the worst thing is that it lands right on his head. Our plucky little hero sets out to find who has left their business on his head.

Torben Kuhlmann / Moletown

German

This nearly wordless tale offers a fascinating window into an imaginary, yet hauntingly familiar world under our feet, where a mole suddenly recognises the precarious balance between progress and preservation. But is it too late?



Jorge Luján / Trunk to Trunklet

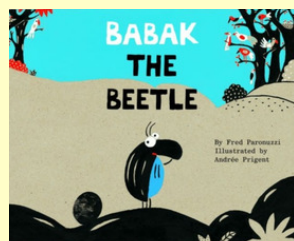
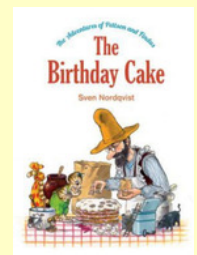
Spanish

A book about animal mummies and babies that's funny, lively, poetic, and deeply intriguing. The art was made using frottage, hand drawing, and computer techniques. The textures produced are deep and immersive yet immediate, drawing the reader into the rich visual world of the book.

Sven Nordqvist / The Birthday Cake

Swedish

The guard always follows the general's orders without question. This time, the order is that no one must cross the line. The right-hand page of this book must be kept blank for the general. As the crowd builds up on the border, the guard is under pressure. If no one is allowed onto the next page, what will happen to the story?



Fred Paranzzi / Babak the Beetle

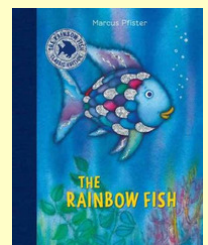
French

One beetle's rubbish is another beetle's treasure! When Babak the little dung beetle finds an egg, he's determined to find the owner. But he soon finds that this mysterious egg doesn't belong to the ostrich, frog, or snake. What kind of egg is it?!

Marcus Pfister / The Rainbow Fish

German (Swiss author)

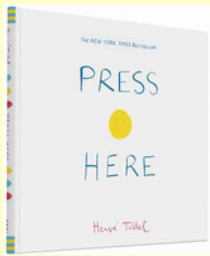
The tale of a beautiful but vain fish with shimmering scales, who is lonely and disliked until the day a wise octopus advises him that, if he wants to have friends, he must share his most valued possessions.



Glenn Ringtved / Cry, Heart, But Never Break

Danish

Aware their grandmother is gravely ill, four siblings make a pact to keep death from taking her away. But Death does arrive all the same, as it must. He comes gently, naturally. And he comes with enough time to share a story with the children that helps them to realise the value of loss to life and the importance of being able to say goodbye.



Herve Tullet / Press Here

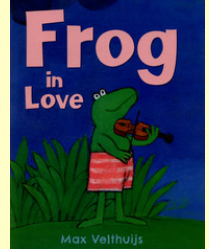
French

The title tells the reader on how to interact with the illustrations to create imaginative images. The book invites the reader to push the yellow button on the cover and trigger a magical journey of colour, imagination, and virtual interactivity.

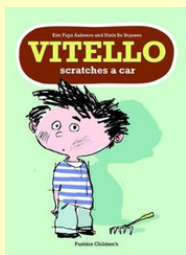
Max Velthuijs / Frog in Love

Dutch

Frog is worried about his health - his heart is beating too fast. His friend Hare thinks he is in love, but who is he in love with? He is in love with a duck. Hare tells Frog he can't be in love with a duck but Frog doesn't care.



Ages 5 - 8



Kim Fupz Aakeson / Vitello Scratches a Car

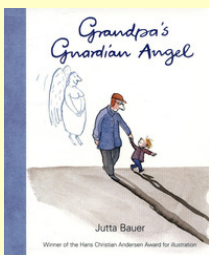
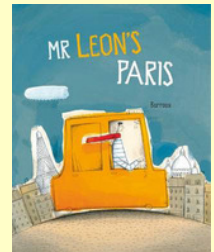
Danish

Vitello and his mum have a new car. Well, nearly new, anyway. But the important thing is that it can't be scratched, not if Vitello doesn't want to be grounded, or sent to the children's home, or worse.

Barrroux / Mr. Leon's Paris

French

Mr Leon decides it's time to explore the real places after which the streets in Paris are named. After putting his taxi up for sale, Mr Leon sets sail for Liberty Street and beyond. This is only the beginning of Mr Leon's world adventures!



Jutta Bauer / Grandpa's Guardian Angel

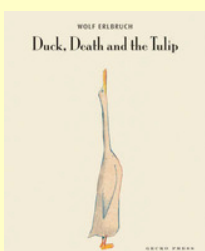
German

An elderly man in hospital tells his grandson how down the years nothing ever seemed to hurt him. It was as if he had a guardian angel protecting him from bullies, buses, high trees, deep lakes, war and unemployment. All in all Grandpa concludes he has had a good life.

Jacques Duquennoy / Little Ghost Party

French

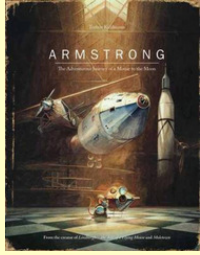
Little Ghost is hosting a dance party and you're all invited! By simply tilting the book, children will be captivated by moving various parts of each guest to replicate the dance moves, or create their own! In addition, young readers will practice associating directional phrases with motor skills.



Wolf Erlbruch / Duck, Death and the Tulip

German

This book will intrigue, haunt and enchant readers of all ages. Simple, warm and witty, this book deals with a difficult subject in a way that is elegant, straightforward, and life-affirming.



Torben Kuhlmann / Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon

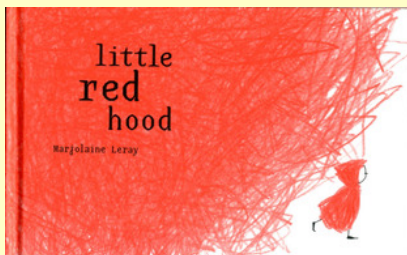
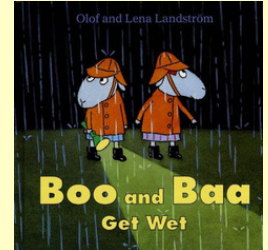
German

A long time ago a mouse learned to fly - and crossed the Atlantic. But what happened next? Torben Kuhlmann transports readers to the moon and beyond!

Olof Landstrom / Boo and Baa Get Wet

Finnish

Whenever Boo and Baa decide to do something, it usually gets all muddled up. Whether it rains, or they get lost, things always get straightened out, even though Boo and Baa don't quite know how.



Marjolaine Leray / Little Red Hood

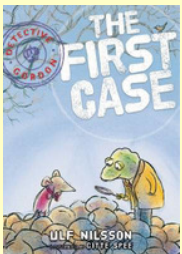
French

She started life as a little red crayon and then, there she was - a little red hood, barely recognisable as the legend from the fairy tale. The wolf is still mean, big and bad, but he also happens to be really, really dumb.

Samuil Marshak / Baggage

Russian

A lady checks her luggage for a train ride: a couch, a suitcase, a traveling bag, a picture, a basket, a hat-box, and a little dog. Will they all make it to her destination?



Ulf Nilsson / The First Case

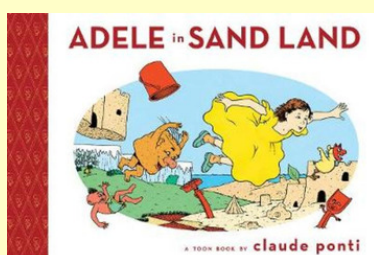
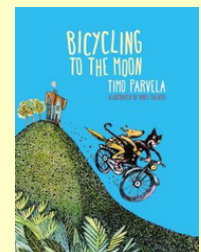
Swedish

Someone's stealing nuts from the forest, and it's up to Detective Gordon to catch the thief. Unfortunately, solving this crime means standing in the snow and waiting for a long time. If only he had an assistant - someone small, fast, and clever - to help solve this terrible case. Then Detective Gordon would be able to go back to doing what he's best at: thinking, eating cakes, drinking tea, and stamping important papers.

Timo Parvela / Bicycling to the Moon

Finnish

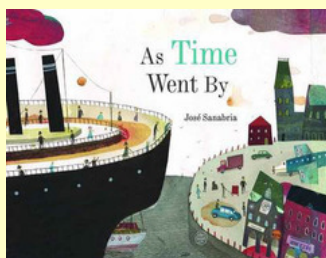
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Claude Ponti / Adele in Sand Land

French

Where can young readers experience boundless imagination? In the sandbox, of course, as they follow Adele on her discovery of a barefoot king, a cloud of fluffy chicks, and a dessert island (YUM!).

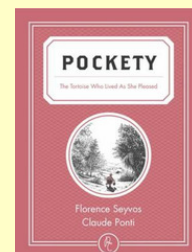


José Sanabria / As Time Went By Spanish

Once upon a time there was a ship that sailed beside the sun with very important people on board. It makes a journey across time from luxury and exclusivity, industry and abandonment, to a time of taking care and inclusion. We see the evolving functions of the ship and the changing faces of the people who cherish it most of all

Florence Seyvos / Pockety: the Tortoise Who Lived as She Pleased French

Moving, funny, and insightful, 'Pockety' captures the feelings of losing someone we love - from denial and anger to eventual peace - through the world of a young tortoise. It speaks clearly to something we all experience - the price we pay for having love in our lives, and how we may grow around those losses.

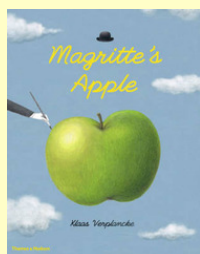
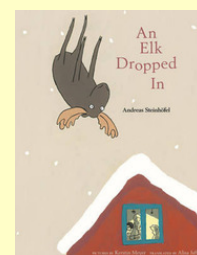


Ulf Stark / Can You Whistle, Johanna? Swedish

When Berra wonders why he doesn't have a grandfather, Ulf thinks there are plenty of old men at the retirement home who could fill the role. They go there together to find one - ideally one who eats pig's trotters, invites you to tea and who can teach you to whistle. This is a sensitive book about a friendship between two boys and an old man.

Andreas Steinhöfel / An Elk Dropped In German

On a pre-Christmas trial run for Santa Claus, an elk named Mr. Moose crashes through the roof of a house and while recuperating from a sprain regales Billy Wagner and his family with stories.



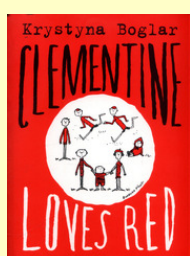
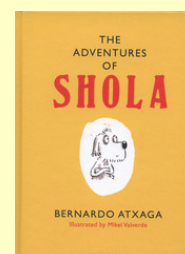
Klaas Verplancke / Magritte's Apple Flemish (Belgian author)

Rene floats through the world of his dreams and imagination, fulfilling his desire to become a painter - of apples and hats, apple hats, apple-these and apple-thats. In his paintings, leaves are lips, baguettes are noses, the right side is never up, and the upside is never down.

Ages 8 - 11

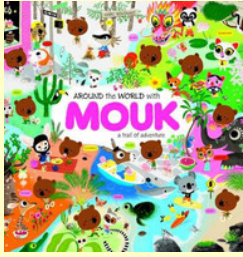
Bernardo Atxaga / Adventures of Shola Basque (Spanish author)

Shola is the most endearing canine you will ever meet: not as courageous as Lassie, but more streetwise than Scooby Doo!



Krystyna Boglar / Clementine Loves Red Polish

It's the end of the holidays for Mark, Annie and Pudding, but they haven't had any really exciting adventures until, on their final visit to see the Frog King of a nearby pond, they find a frightened young girl crying in the woods. The curiously named Macademia tells them she has lost Clementine, and so the three children set out on a quest to find her. But they are not the only ones looking for Clementine, and a storm is approaching, bringing with it a night full of surprises.



Marc Boutavant / Around the World with Mouk

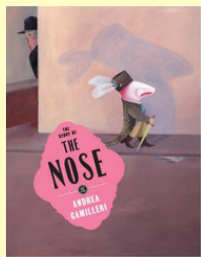
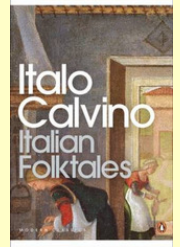
French

Meet Mouk, the adorable and intrepid little bear, who sets off on a journey around the world. Join him as he discovers different cultures and makes new friends around the globe.

Italo Calvino / Italian Folktales

Italian

There was no Italian equivalent to the Brothers Grimm until Italo Calvino collected these folktales from his homeland which transport the reader into a world of adventurers, tricksters, kings, peasants and saints.



Andrea Camilleri / The Story of the Nose

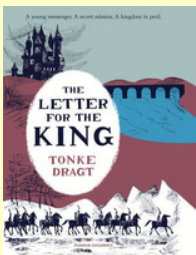
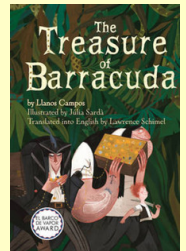
Italian

Kovalyov wakes one morning to discover that his nose has disappeared. It has mysteriously found its way into a loaf of bread on the barber Yokovlevich's breakfast table. The barber attempts to dispose of it, but when Kovalyov steps out onto the St Petersburg streets, he finds his nose, now the size of a human, wearing a gold-embroidered uniform and travelling around in a carriage.

Llanos Campos / The Treasure of Barracuda

Spanish

Sparks is an 11-year-old cabin boy on the Southern Cross, a pirate ship led by Captain Barracuda. When he and the crew discover a book left by the infamous pirate Phineas Johnson Krane, they must decipher its contents and go in search of Krane's hidden treasure. A satisfying tale packed with pirates, outlaws, danger and, in the words of its narrator, "no second chances".



Tonke Dragt/ The Letter for the King

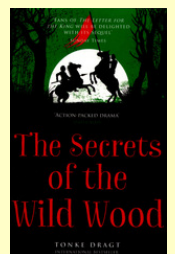
Dutch

A quest and mission is entrusted to a young man on the eve of becoming a knight, which requires him to turn his back on knighthood for a perilous journey and a greater good.

Tonke Dragt/ The Secrets of the Wild Wood

Dutch

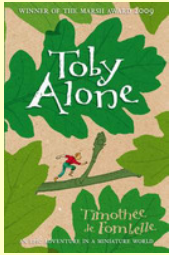
Shola is the most endearing canine you will ever meet: not as courageous as Lassie, but more streetwise than Scooby Doo!



Hans Magnus Enzensberger / The Number Devil: a Mathematical Adventure

German

Schoolboy Robert fears numbers and hates maths. Then, in his dreams, he meets the number devil and is introduced to the amazing world of numbers, a world the number devil is able to make devilishly simple.



Timothee de Fombelle / Toby Alone

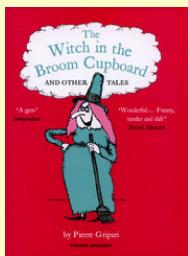
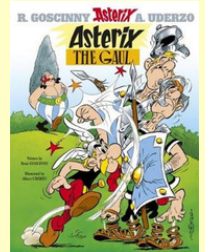
French

This is a story of adventure, heroism, friendship and survival, with a powerful ecological message, set in a miniature world. Toby is just one and a half millimetres tall and is the most wanted person in the great oak tree.

Goscinnny / Asterix the Gaul

French (Belgian author)

In this adventure, Getafix the druid is captured by the Romans, who want him to make some of his magic potion. Asterix goes along to rescue Getafix, and the two Gauls have some fun before returning to the village for the traditional feast.



Pierre Gripari / The Witch in the Broom Cupboard and Other Tales

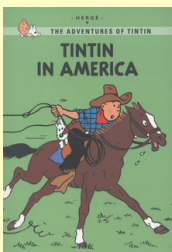
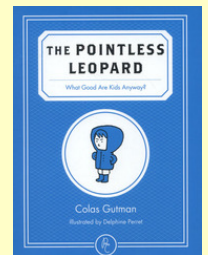
French

There once was a witch who lived in a broom cupboard. She was a wicked witch, and very grumpy too, as you might be if you had to live in a broom cupboard, and just the sort to use her magic to make you her prisoner for ever and ever. In fact, that's exactly what she threatened to do to Uncle Pierre, and if it wasn't for his friend Bashir, along with his magic fish and translating mouse, she would have succeeded!

Colas Gutman / The Pointless Leopard: What Good are Kids Anyway?

French

In the country, there's nothing to do, except: admire. It's the same as being bored, but with your eyes wide open. The hilarious story of grumpy city-child Leonard, forced to go for country walks with his greenery-loving mum and dad, is a wonderful reminder of what use we may be to the world. What do we know? What can we do? And is any of it of real value?



Hergé / Tintin in America

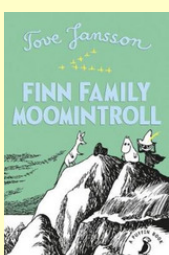
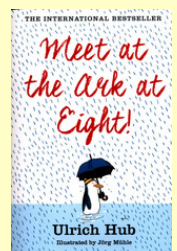
French (Belgian author)

Tintin comes to the United States to clean up the mean streets of Chicago. He quickly outsmarts a group of gangsters, but one gets away! Tintin tracks the bandit into the Wild West. Will he crack the case and make it home in one piece?

Ulrich Hub / Meet at the Ark at Eight!

German

Snow and ice and ice and snow all around, and nothing for three penguins to do but fight with each other and smell slightly of fish. But are they good penguins or bad penguins?



Tove Jansson / Finn Family Moomintroll

Swedish (Finnish author)

Although they're small, fat and shy creatures, Moomins have the most amazing adventures. It all begins when Moominpappa tries on a magic hat that makes exciting and funny things happen.



Lene Kaaberbol / Bloodling

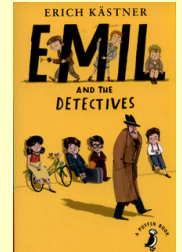
Danish

As Clara turns thirteen, she must complete a daunting challenge in order to become a fully-fledged wildwitch, but a series of frightening attacks on her family are distracting her from the crucial task ahead of her.

Erich Kästner / Emil and the Detectives

German

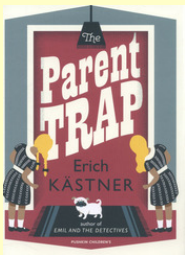
On his first real railway journey Young Emil is robbed of money entrusted to him by his hard-working mother for the relatives he is to stay with in Berlin. A gang of boys about his own age come to his aid, and a thrilling adventure full of surprises ensues as they use their wits to devise a wonderfully simple but practical trick to capture the thief.



Erich Kästner/ The Parent Trap

German

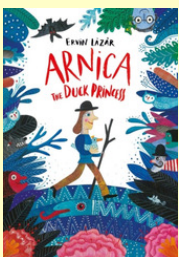
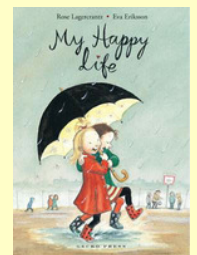
It's the oddest of all odd things, when two girls who have never met before suddenly stand before each other at summer camp - and discover that they're the spitting image of each other. Louise is from Vienna and has long, curly locks; Lottie is from Munich and wears her hair in two severe plaits - but that's truly the only difference between them. Louise and Lottie decide to discover the secret behind their similarity: when the holiday is over, Louise returns to Munich as Lottie, and Lottie to Vienna as Louise.



Rose Lagercrantz / My Happy Life

Swedish

Dani is probably the happiest person she knows. She's happy because she's going to start school. Dani has been waiting to go to school her whole life. Then things get even better - she meets Ella by the swings. After that, Dani and Ella do everything together. But then something happens that Dani isn't prepared for.



Ervin Lázár / Arnica, the Duck Princess

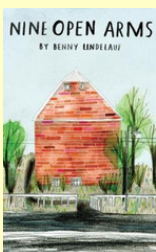
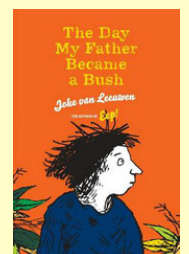
Hungarian

Princess Arnica is so sweet and gentle that when she smiles even wolves and bears forget their fierceness. Everyone loves her, but she loves only Poor Johnny. However, The Witch with a Hundred Faces has cast a spell on the happy couple which means that one of them, at any one time, must always be a duck, and the other human!

Joke van Leeuwen / The Day My Father Became a Bush

Dutch

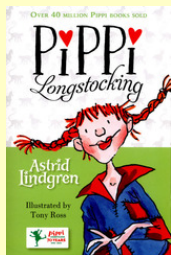
The story of a girl surviving in a baffling world at war. Before he becomes a bush, Toda's father is a pastry chef. When fighting breaks out in the south, he has to go there to defend his country. Luckily, he has a manual telling him how to hide from the enemy, using branches to disguise himself as a bush. No longer safe in the city, Toda is sent across the border to live with her mother. Her adventure is full of adventure and danger.



Benny Lindelauf / Nine Open Arms

Dutch

This is the story of Fing and her large family who has lost their mother and travels around with their father, a hopeless dreamer. His motto is "First believe, then see," They end up in a strange house near a cemetery and have a time twisting adventure that will really stick with the reader



Astrid Lindgren / Pippi Longstocking

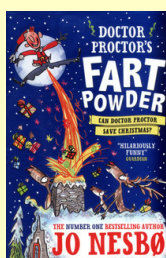
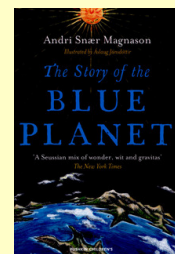
Swedish

Pippi is the only girl in the world who can do exactly what she likes. She is nine years old and lives in a cottage with a horse and a monkey. Her friends Tommy and Annika have to go to school and go to bed when they're told, but they still have time to join Pippi on all her great adventures.

Andri Snær Magnason / The Story of the Blue Planet

Icelandic

Brimir and Hulda are best friends who live on a small island on a beautiful blue planet where there are only children and no adults. Their planet is wild and at times dangerous, but everything is free and everyone their friend. One day a rocket ship piloted by a strange-looking adult named Gleesome Goodday crashes on the beach who promises to make life a hundred times more fun. In exchange for these wonderful things, Goodday asks only for a little bit of each child's youth.



Jo Nesbø / Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder

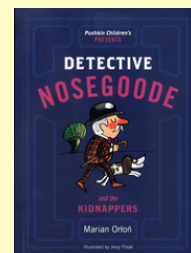
Norwegian

Doctor Proctor is an ageing inventor just waiting for his big break. When he teams up with Lisa and her peculiar friend Nilly in making the world's most powerful fart powder, it seems his dream may be coming true. But the ruthless twins Truls and Trym Thrane are lurking in the background just waiting to spoil their plans.

Marian Orlon / Detective Nosegoode and the Kidnappers

Polish

Detective Nosegoode wants to enjoy his well-deserved retirement, but it seems the villains of Lower Limewood are determined not to let him rest - Ambrosius Nosegoode's best friend, his talking dog Cody has been kidnapped! Will he be returned safe and sound? Never fear, Detective Nosegoode is already on their trail.



Alf Prøysen / Mrs. Pepperpot Stories

Norwegian

Mrs Pepperpot can't choose when she will shrink to the size of a pepperpot - it just happens. Even though she's very small Mrs Pepperpot is a feisty individual, able to take on anyone and everything.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry / The Little Prince

French

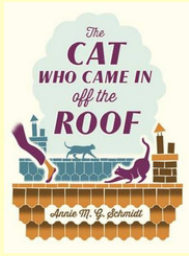
Having crash-landed in the Sahara Desert, a pilot comes across a young boy who introduces himself as the 'Little Prince' and tells him the story of how he grew up on a tiny asteroid before travelling across the galaxies and coming to Earth. His encounters and discoveries, seen through childlike, innocent eyes, give rise to candid reflections on life and human nature.



Mårten Sandén / A House Without Mirrors

Swedish

In Thomasine's great-great-aunt's dusty, dark house the adults bicker about how much the house must be worth, while the elderly aunt is upstairs dying and her father mourns the death of Thomasine's little brother. But one day, her youngest cousin makes a discovery: a wardrobe filled with all the mirrors missing from the big house. And through the mirrors, a different world - one in which you can find not what you most wish for, but perhaps what you most need.



Annie M. G. Schmidt / The Cat Who Came in Off the Roof

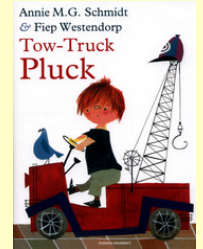
Dutch

Tibble is a reporter. He only ever writes about cats, and he's about to be fired. Minou is a young woman who has moved into Tibble's flat. She hates dogs, likes rooftops, loves the fishmonger, and happens to have been, until very recently, a cat. With her feline friends listening out for all the local human news, is Minou the answer to all Tibble's problems - or just the beginning of them?

Annie M. G. Schmidt / Tow-Truck Pluck

Dutch

Pluck has been driving all over town in his little red tow truck, looking for a home. When he finds out there's a room going free in the Pill Building he goes straight there and moves in. Right away he makes lots of friends, including Zara the cockroach and Dolly the pigeon. Now his adventures can begin.



Luis Sepúlveda / The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly

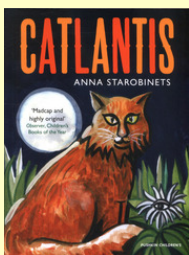
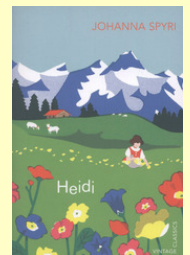
Spanish

Caught up in an oil spill, a dying seagull scrambles ashore to lay her final egg and lands on a balcony, where she meets Zorba, a big black cat from the port of Hamburg. The cat promises the seagull to look after the egg, not to eat the chick once it's hatched and - most difficult of all - to teach the baby gull to fly.

Johanna Spyri / Heidi

German (Swiss author)

Five-year old orphan Heidi is thrilled to be sent to live with her grandfather in the Alps, where she can play in the mountains amongst the animals. One day however, she is taken away to live with a family in the town. Will she be able to overcome obstacles and find her way back to her beloved grandfather?



Anna Starobinets / Catlantis

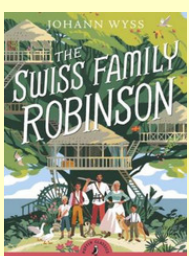
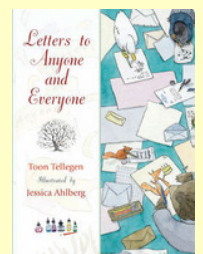
Russian

Baguette is just a regular house cat. He likes to sit in the window, watch the birds, and eat three square meals a day. But what's a regular house cat to do if he falls in love with a beautiful street cat who has some very strange and dangerous demands? Baguette must travel back through the Ocean of Time to the lost island of Catlantis. He must find a way to save the nine lives of all cats before it is too late. And he must outwit the wicked black cat Noir, who is hot on his tail. Only then can he hope to win the paw of Purriana.

Toon Tellegen / Letters to Anyone and Everyone

Dutch

Discover a collection of extraordinary letters in this magical volume of short stories in which Toon Tellegen depicts the correspondence between his animal characters and the world around them.



Johann David Wyss / The Swiss Family Robinson

German (Swiss author)

The story of shipwrecked passengers on a deserted island. How will they survive? After their ship founders at sea, the Robinsons - father, mother and four sons - find themselves stranded in an uninhabited, idyllic land.