# Books

# to fall

for



# Latvian children's books

Recommended by the Latvian Publishers Association, Latvian Writers Union, International Writers' and Translators' House and the Latvian Section of IBBY

#### Latvia offers grants for foreign publishers and translators

The Latvian Writers Union offers a grant programme for all foreign publishers wishing to publish literary works by Latvian authors in languages other than Latvian. The competition is held four times a year. Any foreign publisher registered as a legal entity and experienced in working with foreign authors is eligible to take part in the competition. The grant ensures financial support to cover book translation and production costs.

The Latvian Writers Union also provides financial support for translators who wish to translate Latvian literary works into foreign languages. To qualify for the opportunity to receive funding, a translator must submit a completed application form, a CV, a sample translation, and a letter of intent or an agreement signed with a publisher for publishing the said work. Applications are reviewed quarterly by a Memorandum Council made up of representatives from various Latvian literary industries who decide on the allocation of financial support and provide written replies to the applicants.

The completed application along with the necessary attachments must be sent via e-mail to: **grants@latvianliterature.lv**, or you may fill it in here: <u>www.latvianliterature.lv/en/grants</u>.

# The most important prizes in Children's Literature & Book Art in Latvia

The International Baltic Sea Region Jānis Baltvilks Prize The Annual Latvian Literature Prize The Children's Jury Chocolate Award The 'Golden Apple Tree' National Book Art Contest

#### About children's literature in Latvia

Every year, some 300 books for children are published in Latvia; about a third of them are original works by Latvian authors. More than 15 publishing houses are active contributors to the area.

We are progressing slowly yet surely, working on children's books that share a unique mood, combining the legacy of previous generations and typical trends of modern children's literature. In our books, Nordic reticence alternates with an encouraging, ironic view of ourselves, our time and character. Illustrators are our special driving force: both young and experienced, but all of them – talented and enthusiastic, bring their knowledge of different art genres to book illustration, boldly working boldly to expand diversity in the world of Latvian children's books.

Trīs draugi vienas upes krastā

# Three Friends on the Coast of the Same River

Three friends – a horse, a lobster and a raven – decide to build a house together to live with their whole families. However, it turns out that they have a very different idea of the perfect house.

The illustrations help develop the child's artistic taste; they are childish, playful and joyful, but never straightforward.



by Inese Zandere (1958)
Illustrations by Juris Petraškevičs
liels un mazs, 2014
210 x 280 mm, 32 pages, hard cover
ISBN 978-9934-533-10-5
Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv
Foreign rights sold:



# Nenotikušais atklājums

# The Discovery that Never Was



#### by Mārtiņš Zutis (1988) Illustrations by Author

liels un mazs, 2015 200 x 230 mm, 32 pages, hardcover ISBN 978-9934-533-24-2

Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv

# Foreign rights sold:

Spanish (excluding Spain),
Simplified Chinese (magazine rights only)
— International Jānis Baltvilks
Prize in Children's Literature and
Book Art 2015 for the best debut
— 2016 Children's Jury Award

— White Ravens 2016 collection

Naturalist Karl Darwing is on his way to the letterbox where he hopes to find the latest issue of a scientific magazine, this time dedicated to the magical three-legged raven. For a moment, he is forced to hop on one leg: a snake has been hiding in his boot. On his way back, Karl notices the footprints of a one-legged creature in the snow. As the naturalist attempts to follow the trail and make a discovery, he is surprised to find the number of footmarks increasing. By the time Karl's guesses go as far as a ten-legged space alien or five bandits, he decides that the potential discovery is best given up for now. The reader can have all the pleasure of getting to the bottom of things.

# Kaiju karalienes noslēpums

# The Queen of Seagulls

Renata lives in a city where seagulls disturb the quiet life that she longs for. To ruin the life of the hated birds, she picks up the gulls' food in the yard and eats it for lunch. She spends mornings writing letters of complaint to the city council, but never receives any answer. And then a new neighbour with a fondness for seagulls arrives in Renata's difficult life. Why does she have to suffer so much? The truth lives on a rocky island, far in the open sea, where the sun never goes down.



#### by Rūta Briede (1984) Illustrations by Author

liels un mazs, 2017 180 x 140 mm, 44 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-533-80-8 Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv Foreign rights: All languages available



# Kā Lupatiņi mainījās/ Lupatiņu rīts

# How the Shammies Swapped/ The Shammies' Morning



The Shammies series is an animated cross-media project for pre-school children about discovering the world based on children's games, fantasies and wordplays. The project consists of short films, web episodes and published books. The Shammies are four little curious beings – Sockie, Mitten, Pillow and Hankie – who live in a colourful textile house. They already know how to play, but many exciting things are still to be discovered and learned: how to share their toys with others, how to behave at the table and how to take a bath. Luckily, the dear, wise Mr Cat is always around to help.

In 'How the Shammies Swapped', the first book of the series, as the small protagonists of the series are swapping toys, they see Yarnball the dog, Button the baby and a huge tiger appear in their room.



#### by Inese Zandere (1958)

Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons

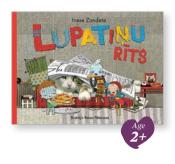
liels un mazs, Atom Art, 2011 183 x 132 mm, 32 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9984-820-38-5

#### Foreign rights sold: Estonian

 International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's Literature and Book Art 2013 for Reinis Pētersons' illustrations

#### Picture books

by Inese Zandere (1958)
Illustrations by Reinis Pétersons
liels un mazs, Atom Art, 2015
183 x 132 mm, 96 pages, hard cover
ISBN 978-9934-533-41-9
Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv
Foreign rights sold: Arabic
— 2017 Children's Jury Award
— The Shammies project has received
awards in China, Latvia and USA
— Films about the Shammies have been
selected for festivals all over the world



'The Shammies' Morning' is the story of the difficult jobs that the Shammies have to face every morning: how do you wake up both yourself and the light? How do you sit down properly at the table if the chairs feel like galloping and twirling around? Is it better to behave like a sparrow or like a little goat? 'The Shammies' Morning' can be published as three separate picture books – 'How the Shammies Woke Up', 'How the Shammies Behaved' and 'How the Shammies Sat Down at the Table'.



#### **BIKIBUKS**

#### **BICKI-BUCK BOOKS**



#### Various authors and illustrators

liels un mazs, 2013-2016

105 x 145 mm, 20–32 pages, stapled, paperback
Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv
Foreign rights: All languages available

— The Bicki-Buck Books series won several
Jury's Special Mentions in book art and design
competitions in Latvia and was included in the
White Rayens 2013 collection.

A series of 100 small picture books: a wide scale of outstanding children's poetry, visually interpreted for children by artists of different styles and genres: graphic artists, painters, stage designers, textile artists, animators and so on.

A marvellous school of diverse thinking, the series helps develop the aesthetic taste of young readers.

#### Picture books



'Pea Children' by Rainis, Illustrations by Anete Melece



'Will the Little Gnome' by Leons Paegle, Illustrations by Anita Rupeika



'A Fairy-Tale About Mushroom-Hunting' by Inese Zandere, Illustrations by Edmunds Jansons

#### **Mincis Brincis**

# **Mincy Brincy**

'Mincy Brincy' is a delightful story featuring animal characters for children 3 to 6 years of age. Mincy Brincy is a cat who loves collecting things in his bag as he walks along the road, but soon finds that there is a serious downside to collecting rocks, birds' eggs and chestnuts. The story can be read on several levels.



by Rudīte Raudupe (1940) Illustrations by Zane Lūse Madris, 2016 215 x 200 mm, 36 pages, hard cover ISBN 9984-31-579-9 Info: skaidrite@madris.lv, www.madris.lv Foreign rights sold: Estonian

# Brāļi grābekļi

# The Rake Brothers

by Mirdza Kerliņa (1949) Illustrations by Evija Stukle-Zuitiņa

Lauku avīze, 2016 205 x 240 mm, 24 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-15-231-3 Info: inga.abelite@la.lv, veikals.la.lv Foreign rights: All languages available



Once upon a time there were three brothers – all of them rakes: Leaf Rake, Hay Rake and Land Rake. There was also one other brother, but what was his main job? The book offers various games and activities to try after reading the story.



Līze Analīze un citi slimnīcas skaitāmpanti

# Jill Is Ill and Other Hospital Nursery Rhymes

The 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 sick 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, as a place where life goes on, there is still room for adventure and friendship.



#### by Inese Zandere (1958) Illustrations by Reinis Pētersons (1981)

liels un mazs, 2012

 $210 \times 210$  mm, 32 pages, hard cover

ISBN 978-9984-820-46-0

Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv

Foreign rights sold: Estonian

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





#### **Tētis**

# **Daddy**



#### by Kārlis Vērdinš (1979) Illustrations by Reinis Petersons liels un mazs, 2016 190 x 250 mm, 64 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-533-54-9 Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsmazs.lv Foreign rights sold: Spanish - International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in

Kārlis Vērdinš can sound both ironic and loving when he writes about a family's everyday life and he will definitely make people of all ages laugh. 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? Vērdinš challenges his readers to rethink traditional social roles.

# Skaļā klase

# **Noisy Classroom**

This poetry collection will appeal to students of all ages. Anyone who has been through school will find something they can relate to, or a nuance they have forgotten. This collection encompasses the most important topics in school – love, hatred, friendship, loneliness, luck and failure in studies.





**by Ieva Samauska (1969) Illustrations by Vivianna Maria Staņislavska** Pētergailis, 2015 145 x 240 mm, 72 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9984-33-416-5

Info: mara.uljanova@petergailis.lv, www.petergailis.lv

Foreign rights sold: English (United Kingdom)

— International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in Children's

Literature and Book Art 2016 for the best debut for

Vivianna Maria Stanislavska's illustrations

#### Mamma un tētis kūrortā

# Mum and Dad at the Resort



#### by Māra Zālīte (1952) Illustrations by Una Leitāne

Dienas grāmata, 2016 211 x 265 mm, 32 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-546-17-4 Info: dace.sparane-freimane@dgramata.lv,

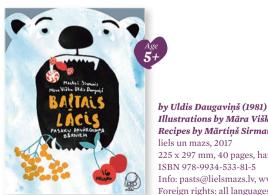
o: dace.sparane-freimane@dgramata.iv, www.dgramata.lv Foreign rights: All languages available

Like all responsible people, Mum and Dad spend every day working and taking care of their children, until one day they suddenly realize that this constant rush and stress has made them very, very tired: tired of life, of their children and of each other. And that is why they decide to go on holiday on their own, to a resort with a warm blue lagoon, no worries and lots of time for relaxation and thinking. However, the incredible transformations they undergo at the resort make them think that perhaps they would have done better to have stayed at home with their children...

#### Baltais lācis. Pasaku pavārgrāmata

# White Bear's Cooking Adventures

The main character of this book is a polar bear with six paws. Eventually he finds out that his six paws are perfect for trying out all his colourful ideas in the kitchen as a cook. On each spread of the book, the story is complemented by a simple vet interesting recipe that kids can prepare on their own.



Illustrations by Māra Viška Recipes by Mārtinš Sirmais liels un mazs, 2017 225 x 297 mm, 40 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-533-81-5

Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsunmazs.lv

20





#### Early reader

Puisēns, kas zīmēja kaķus. Japāņu tautas pasaka

# The Boy Who Drew Cats. A Japanese Fairy-Tale



#### Illustrations by Anita Kreituse

Jānis Roze, 2017 297 x 297 mm, 52 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9984-23-623-0 Info: renate.punka@jr.lv, www.jr.lv Foreign rights: All languages available

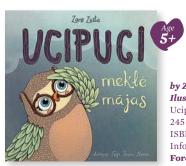
Inspired by a Japanese fairy-tale published in the late 19th century by the American writer and researcher Lafcadio Hearn, the Hamburg-based Latvian artist Anita Kreituse has created wonderful illustrations that persuade readers of all ages that beauty and art can save us from all evil.

# Ucipuci meklē mājas

# **Ucipuci Is Looking for Home**

Ucipuci the Owl is a sweet, friendly and interesting character. The adventure itself is exciting and even a little dangerous, with a fascinating twist at the end. The book is interactive - the ending contains an integrated puppet theatre.





# by Zane Zusta (1982) Ilustrations by Evija Timma-Novika Ucipuci izdevniecība. 2015

245 x 245 mm, 43 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9984-805-89-4 Info: ucipuci@ucipuci.lv, www.ucipuci.lv

Info: ucipuci@ucipuci.lv, www.ucipuci.lv Foreign rights sold: Simplified Chinese

## Rrrr! jeb Lauvas rūciens

# Rawrrr! or The Lion's Roar



This book by the popular Latvian writer Juris Zvirgzdiņš was intended as a children's story about animals, flowers and toys, yet addressing serious issues like compassion, putting oneself in another's shoes, solidarity and working together towards solving problems in an easy and lighthearted manner. The author does not instruct his reader or try to teach him a lesson – nor does the illustrator of the book, the renowned artist Lina Dudaite. It was her ideas that inspired the writer to create this book.

Ko nolaupīja gaisa balons, jeb Tobiass, Paulīne un Kaķis ceļo uz Spāniju

# What Did the Air Balloon Kidnap or Tobias, Paulina and the Cat Travel to Spain

Juris Zvirgzdiņš blends fantasy and reality to create an exciting adventure – accompanied by a cat and a mouse, Tobias the Teddy-Bear flies all over Europe to Spain in a hot air balloon. There, they meet a witch on a Harley-Davidson motorbike along with a number of other bizarre characters and find out many interesting things about Spain.





#### Juris Zvirgzdiņš (1941) Illustrations by Gundega Muzikante liels un mazs. 2016

 $215 \times 255$  mm, 86 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-533-78-5

Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsunmazs.lv Foreign rights: All languages available



# Have a nice day! Gandrīz mīlas stāsts

# Have a Nice Day! Almost a Love Story



by Juris Zvirgzdiņš (1941) Illustrations by Elīna Brasliņa

Pētergailis, 2015 163 x 235 mm, 80 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9984-33-398-4 Info: mara.uljanova@petergailis.lv, www.petergailis.lv

Foreign rights: All languages available — National Book Art Contest Award 'Golden Apple Tree' 2016

The protagonist of the book is a boy who has lost his parents in a car accident. For four years, he is tossed from one family of relatives to another like a football. The boy's relatives do not need such a 'retarded' and 'slow' child. The boy is sent first to a special needs school and after that to an ordinary one where, following countless complications, he finds the friendship of classmates and his first love.

# Pastaiga mirušo pilsētā. Pārupes spoku stāsti

# A Walk in the City of the Dead

Since the mid-eighties Rungulis has been collecting the horror stories children love telling each other so much. Now, he has merged them together in a book about sixthgrade pupils working on a school project in which they have to collect and tell each other local horror stories.



# by Māris Rungulis (1950) Illustrations by Kristiāns Brekte

Liels un mazs, 2016 148 x 210 mm, 160 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-533-69-3 Info: pasts@lielsmazs.lv, www.lielsunmazs.lv



#### Mākslas detektīvi

## **Art Detectives**

# by Luīze Pastore (1986) Illustrations by Elīna Brasliņa

Neputns, 2015, 2016
210 x 200 mm, 60 pages, paperback
Info: dace@neputns.lv, www.neputns.lv
Foreign rights: All languages available
— International Jānis Baltvilks Prize in
Children's Literature and Book Art 2015
— 2016 Children's Jury Award
— Annual Latvian Literature Prize 2016
— 2016 White Rayens collection



Can works of art come alive? Is it possible to step into a painting and experience the story depicted therein? What secrets have the artists hidden in their paintings? The 'Art Detectives' books invite you behind the scenes of the art world, full of adventure and mystery. The series features the young detectives Theo and Button, who investigate the hidden secrets of works by some of Latvia's best-known artists.

Five titles were published in the 'Art Detectives" series between 2015 and 2016 - 'The Missing Monkey', 'The Invisible Man', 'The Arrival of a Stranger', 'Operation MASK' and 'The Last King". In all five books of the series, Theo and Button go on the greatest chase imaginable through the history of the art world.

#### Spēles meistars

# Master of the game

Christian is a 12-year-old boy who lives an ordinary, everyday life – until strange events start to happen. What is so unusual about Mrs Folkmane, Christian's younger sister's nanny? Christian and Marth start following Mrs Folkmane. Unbelievable things are discovered, and the children end up travelling to Iceland!



by Signe Kvaskova (1976) Cover by Anete Bajāre-Babčuka

Jumava, 2015 145 x 200 mm, 344 pages, paper back ISBN 978-9934-11-733-6

Info: asistents@jumava.lv, www.jumava.lv Foreign rights: All languages available

# Bulta, Zvaigzne un Laī

# Arrow, Star and Laï



by Ieva Melgalve (1981)
Cover by Artūrs Bērziņš
Zvaigzne ABC, 2014
140 x 210 mm, 160 pages, hard cover
ISBN 978-9934-0-4511-0
Info: apgads@zvaigzne.lv, www.zvaigzne.lv
Foreign rights: All languages available

Castor's plans are simple: he wants to make a good, strong name for himself and become one of the tribe's hunters. But when his friend Pelle is exiled from the tribe, Castor cannot let her leave all by herself. Unexpectedly they are joined by Neena, the daughter of the tribe's witch. And a journey can now begin – a journey to the faraway elf lands governed by the rules of the wizarding world, a journey revealing secrets kept by both elves and humans.

#### Kristofers un Enu ordenis

# Christopher and the Order of Shadows



by Arno Jundze (1965) Cover by Artūrs Bērziņš

Zvaigzne ABC, 2015 140 x 210 mm, 302 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-0-4945-3

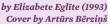
Info: apgads@zvaigzne.lv, www.zvaigzne.lv Foreign rights: All languages available

Christopher is an ordinary fourteen-year-old boy who lives in Riga in a small basement flat with an elderly relative. Nobody, Christopher included, considers him to be anyone special. But on the very last day of an equally ordinary school year, strange events involving Christopher start to happen. What is the mystical Order of Shadows – and what does it want from the boy?

#### Tikšanās laikā

# **Meeting in Time**

16-year-old Eleonora has just started college. Everything is new – new friends, new school, a new love. However, her favourite haunt – the churchyard of Krustpils – remains the same. It is there that she first sees the mysterious stranger – a boy who sits in the storm untouched by rain, who acts and dresses in a fashion much older than that of the 21st century... Strange adventures await Eleonora – adventures taking place simultaneously in two different eras...



Zvaigzne ABC, 2015 140 x 210 mm, 352 pages, hard cover ISBN 978-9934-0-4708-4 Info: apgads@zvaigzne.lv, www.zvaigzne.lv Foreign rights: All languages available



## Mini Kuš! sērija

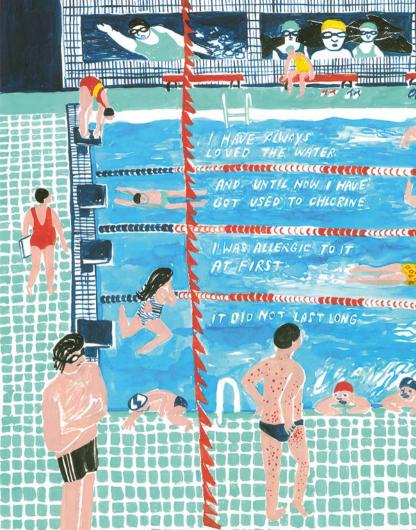
# mini kuš! series



#### Various authors

Grafiskie stāsti, 2010-2017 105 x 148 mm, 24 pages, saddle-stitched Info: komikss@gmail.com, www.komikss.lv Foreign rights: All languages available

'mini kuš!' is a line of mini comics series focusing on the theme of 'modern heroes' featuring a full-length original work by international comics creators. Published in quartets since 2010, the series currently encompasses fifty stories covering a variety of styles, registers and subject matters. Nine mini kuš! have been created by Latvian artists – 'Being' by Mārtiņš Zutis, 'Rainbow of Pain' by Ernests Kļaviņš and Andrejs Kļaviņš, 'Bobis' by Dace Sietiņa, 'Lucky' by Oskars Pavlovskis, 'Domino' by Rūta Daubure and Anete Daubure, 'Swimming Pool' by Anna Vaivare, 'Collector' by Zane Zlemeša and 'Three Sisters' by Ingrīda Pičukāne.



#### Mēness teātris

# The Moon Theatre

In an enormous theatre, performances are shown on many different stages all at the same time. The actors have no identity outside their stage life and no objective other than seeking the chance of a better part and trying not to get themselves on the playwrights' blacklists. Who are these playwrights, who are the members of the audience, and do they really exist? No one knows for sure (although a few of them – the inquisitive young Lapsa, for example – try to find out).



by Ieva Melgalve (1981)
Cover by Artūrs Bērziņš
Zvaigzne ABC, 2015
140 x 210 mm, 320 pages, hard cover
ISBN 978-9934-0-5680-2
Info: apgads@zvaigzne.lv, www.zvaigzne.lv
Foreign rights: All languages available

# Jelgava 94

# Jelgava 94

by Jānis Joņevs (1980)
Cover by Reinis Pētersons
Mansards, 2013
130 x 190 mm, 312 pages, paper back
ISBN 978-9984-872-85-8
Info: janis@apgadsmansards.lv
www.apgadsmansards.lv
Foreign rights sold: Bulgarian, Turkish, French,
Slovenian, Norvegian, English (United Kingdom)
— European Union Prize for Literature 2014
— Annual Latvian Literature Award 2013

2013 Children's Jury Award2014 White Rayens collection



Jonevs' debut in the novel genre of novel has proved a real hit and bestseller in Latvia. Set in the 1990s in the town of Jelgava, the story is centred on the rather short-lived craze for the alternative culture of heavy metal music. The text incorporates elements of both the intimate diary of a youngster trying to find himself and the skilful depiction of recent Latvian history.



Latvia 100