RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2023
Children and YA
Miš Publishing Slovenia
Tenders and Public Calls

Slovenian Book Agency: funding opportunities for foreign publishers
www.jakrs.si/en

Grants for the translation and publication of works by Slovenian authors
Yearly open call for translations from Slovenian and translations of works, written in other languages, when author is a part of Slovenian cultural environment, into foreign languages includes first translations of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be legal persons (publishing houses, theatres) registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 100% and maximum of 10.000 € of the translation costs.
CONTACT: katja.urbanija@jakrs.si

Grants for printing costs
Yearly open call for printing costs for translations from Slovenian and translations of works, written in other languages, when author is a part of Slovenian cultural environment, into foreign languages includes first prints of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be publishing houses registered abroad. The subsidy covers up to 70% and maximum of 3.000 € of the printing costs. The call is opened for books, published from 15 November 2022 to 15 November 2023.
CONTACT: katja.urbanija@jakrs.si

Slovenia – Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023
Yearly open call for translations from Slovenian into German language includes first translations and reprints of adult fiction, children's and young adult fiction, essayistic and critical works on culture and the humanities, plays, graphic novels and comics. Applicants must be publishing houses registered in Austria, Germany or Switzerland. This subsidy covers up to 50% and up to 11.000 € of all types of costs connected with book publication (excluding license fees) and promotion for first translations or 50% and up to 3.000 € for reprints, eligible costs are printing, typesetting, cover design and corrections.
CONTACT: mateja.humar-jelnikar@jakrs.si

Travel Grants
Travel grants are also available for Slovene authors, translators, editors or rights agents, who have been invited to literary or industry events abroad. An invitation and the program for the event must be enclosed with the application.
There will be two calls in 2023:
• one for trips to German speaking countries (in light of Slovenia – Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023). Eligible costs are travel expenses, accommodation and daily allowance (per diem).
• and the second for trips worldwide. Only travel costs are eligible.
CONTACT: katja.urbanija@jakrs.si
Contents

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

4 Don’t Forget the Title!
5 Bread Town
6 Zebra in the Mirror
6 Adventure Ahead
7 Are We There Yet?
7 Every Little Kindness
8 Three Ducklings
9 Tonya the Fish
10 Who Do You Think …?
11 Stop Thinking About the Elephant!
11 Mr. Elephant, You Are It!
12 About a Mousy, Who Slapped a Bear Silly
13 The Mouse Has Pink Glasses
14 Listen Up, Here Comes the Badger!
14 The Mouse that Sought Friendship
15 A Question for Grandma
16 How Mister FelixEntered a Bicycle Race
17 How Mister Felix Found Blessing in Disguise
18 A Princess of Stony Words
19 Giants of Cenozoic
20 The Lighthouse

MIDGRADE BOOKS

21 Fox Moon
22 Borrowed Grandma Štefi
23 SuperVid: School Class Mystery
23 SuperVid: The Book Thief
24 In a Faraway Forest
24 Lunch at the Forest
25 Something is Gleaming Above the Forest
26 Thing I Don’t Understand
27 Will Everything Really Be Fine?
28 Stories from the End of the Stone Age
30 Stories From the Duchy of Carniola:
Witch hunt

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

31 The Fiery Three: Expulsion
31 The Fiery Three: The Pursuit
32 The Tribe of Fire
33 Goodbye, Lara
33 Survival
33 The Fifth Foul
34 The Storm Within
34 The Ballad for the Tree
35 To the Back of Beyond
35 The Three O’Clock Bus
36 Where the Wind Sleeps

COMIC BOOKS

37 Animal Farm
38 Pippi the Chick’s Incredible Search
39 Luka From the Neighbourhood

The White Ravens – recommended by the International Youth Librery in Munich, who annually selects best child and youth titles around the world.

The Golden Pear – best of Slovenian child and youth literature, selected annually by The Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship in Ljubljana.
Don’t Forget the Title!

By Gaja Kos
Illustrated by Jaka Vukotič

“"This book sure is pig in a poke!
Should we anyway let the cat out of the bag?”

Probably the title itself hints at the playful nature of this picture book. In it is a mouse, who is excited about being the lead character in the book, but at the same time she is more and more surprised with every page, because the pages are just blank! What exactly is her role and what she is supposed to do? After a while, she meets another mouse, who is also confused, and they soon run into a cat and, before they can find out, what is really going on in the book, they run away, because they are convinced that the cat wants to eat them … Book is full of situational and verbal comics, which are well supported by witty illustrations. For playful readers who love surprises!
Bread Town

By Peter Svetina
Illustrated by Peter Škerl

The work is an interweaving of imagination and real people, places, buildings, etc., in which the architect Jože Plečnik appears as a little boy who spends the holidays with his aunt. There, he likes to create various things from bread dough: bridges, houses, stools ... In the story, he tells his aunt about how he climbed into a loaf of bread and ended up in a large town with a river running through it. It was a town with a big church, a castle, and beautiful houses. There he met a little girl called Alice and a white puppy who only eats hard-boiled eggs. When the boy describes all this to his aunt, she naturally thinks that he fell asleep and dreamed it all, which would not be unusual for his level of imagination.
Zebra in the Mirror

By Tina Arnuš Pupis
Illustrated by Marta Bartolj

Age 3+
36 pages
200 x 270 mm

Self-perception
Emotions
Bullying

A zebra is looking at her image in the lake. At first, she is happy with what she sees, but when she remembers a few remarks from other animals that spoke ill of her appearance, her previously beautiful body parts suddenly seem ugly, stupid. So, the story can be read in one direction, but — alas! The book can also be read in the other direction, offering us a diametrically opposite story, experience, and message! The picture book, which questions the individual's self-image, with its original concept offers an excellent starting point for conversations with children.

Rights sold: Germany, English

Adventure Ahead

By Marta Bartolj

Age 3+
48 pages
245 x 185 mm

Silent book
Imagination
Exploration

One day, Mouse leaves the safety of his home to venture into a beautiful, interesting yet also dangerous world. Fortunately, with a little friendly assistance, his journey has a happy ending. When he returns to his loved ones, he tells them about what he experienced and saw on his travels.

The picture book is textless, and thanks to its transparent and charming illustrations, its simple story can be followed and understood through images alone, making it incredible suitable for very young children.
Are We There Yet?  
By Marta Bartolj

Following substantial success at home and abroad with the textless book One Small Kindness the author delivers a new textless work, created in a similar artistic fashion. In it, she tackles patience – an evergreen topic – especially with young children, who are generally quite impatient and find it difficult to count down the days until their favourite events. In the book, we meet a boy who visits his grandparents with his parents. The author depicts very vividly how their journey seems to drag on, and how the boy feels about it, as well as introduces some interesting activities that help the child pass the time.

Marta Bartolj  
(1979) graduated from the ArtHouse College of Visual Arts, Ljubljana, then she pursued her postgraduate master’s studies at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, where she immersed herself in illustration. The style of her illustrations is distinctively diverse, from playful and childlike to gentle lyricism. Marta loves to put on her illustrator’s shoes – they are the ones she feels most comfortable in.

Every Little Kindness  
By Marta Bartolj

A beautifully illustrated wordless story demonstrates the mighty power of seemingly small actions and raises the question of what it means to be human. It takes its »reader« on an imaginary journey of discovery and adventure and encourages dialogue. Readers will discover how one small kindness can make a change, even though we might not always see it. The thought-provoking picture book addresses young and adult readers alike and is truly a work of art.

Awards and praises:
IBBY Collecton of Silent Books Honour List 2019, White Ravens Recommendation List, final competition of BIBF Ananas Illustration Awards, Kristina Brenkova Award 2018 – Special Prize The Amazon Editors’ Best Children’s Book of 2021, Ages 3-5 Ezra Jack Keats Honor Award

"Little deeds matter!"
Three ducklings are enjoying a carefree bath, but they are interrupted by a kitten who teases them for not having pants. The ducklings look for pants in vain, but luckily a stork passes by who scolds the troublemaker and comforts the ducklings, saying that although they have enough fluff to cover their behinds, it is still wise to wear a hat.

A heart-warming cardboard children’s book written partly in prose, partly in verse. It’s playful and humorous, and the little listeners and viewers will undoubtedly be charmed by the cute images of playful ducklings and other animal characters.

“A water bath for ducklings, a sound bath for little listeners.”
Tonya the Fish

By Manica Musil

We drove off on a scooter.
It was the happiest day of my life.

Tonya the fish is no ordinary fish. She's constantly thinking of various types of vehicles and her biggest dream is to one day drive them all. Will her dream come true?

The picture book is made in Manica K. Musil's special “stitching technique”, which has brought her international acclaim. A number of her picture books have been translated into foreign languages and are reaping great success abroad. This book is distinguished by a simple yet fun and dynamic storyline that will undoubtedly appeal to the youngest among vehicle enthusiasts.
Who Do You Think ...?

By Tina Bilban
Illustrated by Ivan Mitrevski

Age 5+
28 pages
215 x 275 mm
Fun Play book Abstract thinking

Picture book *Who Do You Think ...?* continually asks questions. Who do you think is fast? Who do you think likes to play? Who do you think is tall? This book is interested in what your child thinks. Today, maybe a child might think a balloon is big, but tomorrow that could be a duck, which has so much breath to fill that balloon. Young ones can come up with a different answer every day! The answers to the questions are hidden in colorful illustrations, which depict the same characters in different poses and with different accessories.

The book is perfect for gathering the whole family to have fun with book heroes and compare their answers. The question that is always asked on the left side of this book does not mean there is only one possible answer to it!
Stop Thinking About the Elephant!

By Nina Mav Hrovat
Illustrated by Ivan Mitrevski

Age 4+ 
40 pages 
215 x 275 mm 

Word-game 
Funky 
Interactive 

This picture book challenges the reader NOT to think about the trunked giant – about an ordinary elephant, or a colourful one, or a patterned one, or an elephant calf, or an elephant family ... After a few pages, which are filled with drawn elephants, this naturally proves a rather difficult task.

“The theory of invasive thoughts.”

Mr. Elephant, You are It!

By Nina Mav Hrovat
Illustrated by Ivan Mitrevski

4+ 
24 pages 
215 x 275 mm 

Witty 
Hide-and-seek 
Playful 

The picture book Mr. Elephant, You Are It! is sort of a sequel to Do Not Think About the Elephant! While the first book challenged the reader not to think about an elephant, the challenge in the second is to seek out the elephant. The elephant finds quite a few more or less wacky, variably successful hiding places, ending up in one you definitely would not think of!

“Where is the last place, you would look for an elephant?”

Ivan Mitrevski completed his studies in philosophy and sociology of culture. During his studies, he began publishing his illustrations and comics in various magazines. In the meanwhile, he became part of the editorial board of Stripburger magazine, and later was also its editor-in-chief. He especially likes to illustrate picture books, educational literature and comics. He would like to inspire his readers to read, excite their imagination, encourage them to think and, at the same time, make them laugh.
On her birthday, the mouse is most excited about the delicious hazelnut, that she has laid aside especially for the occasion. But where is it? The mouse is convinced that the one, responsible for its disappearance, is a mouse neighbor, because he was the only one, who knew about it. She gets angrier by the moment, and because she cannot find her neighbor, her anger is felt by many who cross her path, including the bear. About a Mousy, Who Slapped a Bear Silly is a dynamic and also a very entertaining story, accompanied by illustrations, which manage to make the reader feel mouse’s irritation.
The Mouse Has Pink Glasses

By Saša Pavček
Illustrated by Kristina Krhin

A story about a cheerful, creative and curious little mouse, who has problems at school, which makes her a target of ridicule. When they finally discover she has dyslexia, they prescribe her special colored (pink) glasses to help her tame the letters and numbers. And so, the life of the little mouse becomes beautiful again, and she even becomes an avid book lover.

This picture book helps parents accepting their child’s differences, to protect him/her from humiliation, and to dispel the child’s fear. The story is also a welcome tool to discuss, how every problem can be overcome by accepting the difference and supporting each other as friends.

Saša Pavček is one of the most famous and renowned Slovenian poets, actresses and playwrights. Her works for young people are full of optimism and humor, they are socially engaged, they deal with hardships in the family and school environment. The story of the mouse with the pink glasses is the author’s own experience that inspires children, as the great actress also had difficulty reading as a child.
With his tireless singing practice, the badger really gets on the nerves of every neighbour in the forest. He is so annoying that they start thinking about how to silence him. But in the execution of their plan, things take an unexpected turn, and the hunters fall into their own trap. Literally. Naturally, it is the badger who comes to the rescue, and after the animals are saved, they are in for another surprise ...

Rights sold: Czech Republic, German

Kristina Krhin (1974)
a renowned and award-winning Slovenian illustrator, graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana, majoring in painting. Her illustrations are full of details, cute animal characters and sometimes she introduces her own parallel story in a picture book. In addition to the many picture books she co-created, she also works as an illustrator in the creation of various children's magazines and textbooks.

“Where goes around comes around.”

The Mouse that Sought Friendship
By Nina Mav Hrovat, illustrated by Kristina Krhin

A book tells us a story about a lonesome mouse who wants to make friends. But her constant nagging and comments about the appearance of helpful critters that cross her path, does not really help her. Will she realise the importance of actions and deeds over traits and appearance? The author skilfully selects (animal) characters whose willingness to help others clashes with their unpleasant appearance.

Rights sold: Czech Republic

“Take a good look at who’s in front of you – it might be a friend.”
A grandson spends his day at his grandmother’s. Together, they cook, mop the floor, knit, read picture books and ride the bicycle. But the grandson cannot get one question out of his mind – he keeps asking his grandmother when she will die. When Grandma takes him into her arms and tackles his question, she realizes what concerns him: he would like to spend many more holidays with her.

Grandma sat next to him, and he asked one more time: “Granny, when will you die?”
“Let me think,” said Grandma.
“Not just yet. I have to read you a story.”
“Wonderful! I like stories!” rejoiced the grandson.
Mr. Felix, on a whim, enters a cycling race, but he is not your everyday competitor: when thirsty, he stops for a lemonade; when feeling like it, he jumps into the water, with no regard for his miraculously gained leading position. The story of Mr. Felix is full of suspense but is also humorous. It celebrates a relaxed attitude towards life.
How Mister Felix Found Blessing in Disguise

By Peter Svetina
Illustrated by Ana Razpotnik Donati

“"A tribute to friendships that weather the storms.""
Once upon a time there lived a princess who could not utter a kind word. She constantly teased and insulted everyone around her. Even for her father, the king, she could not find a nice word. The victims of her unfriendliness were the governess, a ballet master, a spinet teacher, a cook, and a gardener. The nurse was convinced that the girl had once swallowed an evil dwarf’s grain of a fiery pepper, which burned her throat every time she wanted to say something kind. Nevertheless, one day a prince appeared, asking for the princess’s hand, and although she also showered him with unfriendliness, he insisted on taking her as his wife and bringing her to his court. But even there she stayed the same, and the princess’s insults went so far that the prince’s staff wanted to leave the court. The prince finally called his wizard for help.

Unkind words are like stone blocks, but beautiful ones soar as iridescent bubbles.
We literally have piles of books about dinosaurs, while we practically know nothing about all the other prehistoric animals. Who are the giants from the title? Those are the mammals that lived in the Cenozoic period. The book is an instructive picture book that explains and shows who trampled and rumbled the Earth after the extinction of the dinosaurs. The book presents 19 mammals with a scientific (natural, paleontological) illustrations. Each illustration is accompanied by a brief description of interesting characteristics and some basic information about the animal. For a more precise idea about how big those creatures really were, the author adds a dynamic illustration of a dog next to each of them. In some instances, this dog looks no more than a tiny image. However, that is not all! The book is equipped with a special line grid, with which the drawn animals can also be animated, i.e. they can be revived and set in motion. This will certainly be of a great interest for children, although, *Giants of Cenozoic* is an extremely aesthetic book for all ages.
The Lighthouse
By Damijan Stepančič

A man and a boy say their goodbyes in the port, and the boat sails away, but not everything goes according to plan. Soon, enormous waves rise, and the tentacles of a giant squid reach out ... Is a safe return to the home port even possible?

The master illustrator Damijan Stepančič has once again created a wordless picture book. His narrative is now focused on the lighthouse and the sea. The lavish illustrations are filled with suggestions for interpretation (such as coats of arms and other details), especially animal symbols, and Stepančič proves to be a fine dramaturge – the suspense builds up gradually; one dynamic, dramatic scene comes after another, and a mysteriousness characteristic of the sea pervades the work as a whole.

― That which is below is like that which is above and that which is above is like that which is below to do the miracles of one only thing. ―
Fox Moon
By Maša Ogrizek
Illustrated by Tina Dobrjac

Full moon. Mom has night shift again, so Zoe will spend another lonely evening in a cottage on the edge of the forest. While contemplating, she is startled by a penetrating meow. In pursuit of the cat she squeezes through the skylight and climbs the branches of a tall oak tree. She suddenly spots two glowing eyes. She loses her balance and plunges into the depths ...

Fantastic adventure into the deep magical Evergreen Forest is accompanied by exceptional illustrations, painted by an academic painter and illustrator Tina Dobrjac, who has created an enchanted atmosphere of a wild forest and has captured the heroes in their transformation.

Awards and praises:
Večernica award 2022

This story, sparkling like a fairytale, speaks of two basic human needs: the need for authenticity and the need for belonging.

Maša Ogrizek (1973), a university graduate in Sociology of Culture and a philosopher, has been self-employed in culture as a critic and writer since 2008. At first, she worked primarily as a critic and journalist; though in recent years she has become increasingly established as a youth writer. Her writing is characterized by word games and warm humor, she also likes to experiment with the form itself. She lives and works in Ljubljana.
Jaka Vukotič has studied architecture, but he knew from the beginning that drawing is truly his passion. His illustrations are colourful, humorous and full of hidden ‘sweets’ that readers have yet to find. His illustrations live in picture books, comic-book albums, children’s and youth magazines, book covers, textbooks ... occasionally he even draws on walls. Some of his work was even awarded. He lives and works in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Ula, Jan and Luka find themselves in a pickle, as Jan and Luka’s parents are planning to go on a business trip without any available backup in the form of grandparents or other family members. Then Štefi appears. She is a former scout and a lady of many surprises. What kind of adventure can the kids look forward to with their new babysitter? And without smartphones to boot!

The story is lively, mischievousness and witty, adorned with lovely black and white illustrations. An extremely exciting book for young teens.

"Just as the three children in the company of their borrowed grandma Štefi don’t have time for boredom (even without smartphones!), readers will surely devour this book quickly and be very pleasantly surprised by the end."
One day, an argument breaks out in Vid’s class. His annoying schoolmate Mark is teasing Neja, calling her Fartwhite. This event is followed by the disappearance of a few students’ art folders, which the janitor finds outside in the snow. Who is the culprit? Vid is the one who cracks the case …

Vid is in the school library when he hears a boy rummaging through a shelf. The boy then takes the book without checking it out first. A book thief! Vid wonders who it could be, and more importantly, what his motive is. When he learns the “hows and whys”, he wonders how the book could be returned to the library without the perpetrator being exposed. His plan involves the school’s Big Book Swap event, which turns out exactly as he expected. All’s well that ends well.

New in 2023

School Class Mystery

The Book Thief

Will visually impaired Vid unravel the mystery case with the help of his third eye?

By Žiga Valetič
Illustrated by Jaka Vukotič

Žiga Valetič (1973) is a writer and graphic designer with diverse areas of interest and expertise: from graphic novels to music, from screenwriting to humour, from ecopolitics to mystical poetry. He lives with his wife, daughter, a cat and four bicycles in the suburbs of Ljubljana. His book on 1980’s pop-rock was nominated for the Book of the Year award at the Slovenian Book Fair, and his humoristic novel Optimists in Heaven has been nominated for the Modra pica award. Lately, his focus has been the SuperVid series – contemporary stories for kids, thematizing disabilities.
In a forest far, far away, woodland critters get into all sorts of mischief, embark on exciting adventures, and have an enormous amount of fun. From time to time, some tensions might arise between them, but everything can be solved among friends. In a faraway forest, everyone reaches their happily ever after. One way or another.

The book is a collection of 10 beautiful and mesmerizing stories.

What is happiness, if not hanging out with friends?

Lunch at the Forest

By Tína Arnus Pupis
Illustrated by Tanja Komadina

Age 8+
96 pages
150 x 215 mm

Waggish
Magical
Animal Fairytales

Lunch at the Forest is the sequel to the author’s debut compilation of stories In a Faraway Forest. Her second book also contains ten animal stories, in which the reader meets old acquaintances, as well as some new ones. This time the lynx is looking for the right word, the animals are choosing the forest president, the wolf suffers from insomnia, and the peaceful forest everyday life is disturbed by the arrival of a stranger - a wild striped beast. The author is no stranger to wordplay, and her engaging characters are put in front of very imaginative challenges. In her stories, spikes are not reserved only for hedgehogs, but here and there she also pokes with some socially critical thorns.

Spikes are not reserved only for hedgehogs...
A bear, a fox and a rabbit with red snouts emerge from an unknown spacecraft that lands in the middle of a forest. Their forest-dwelling counterparts who offer them shelter are of course curious as to who they are, where they come from and... why do they behave so mysteriously and oddly? Soon the terrible truth about the Forest Planet, which includes dormice, is reviled. A visit from these outsiders ends with a visit from a dormouse, and this meeting is, like the other encounters, very peculiar.

“ A bear, a fox and a rabbit supposedly have twin copies from outer space! Can this be fun, scary, annoying, enigmatic or a bit of everything? ”
Oto meets Alina by chance. She’s a girl that’s anything but ordinary. Well, actually, it’s her mom who is different to what you’d usually expect a mom to be. Realizing what some parents are like is quite a shock to Oto. And he thought his mom was impossible! The boy decides to save Alina, which, of course, turns out to be anything but straightforward.

Things I Don’t Understand is a gripping, emotionally powerful novel on domestic violence. The main character’s spine-tingling story keeps the audience at the edge of their seats, but still inspires hope that everything will turn out well in the end.
Bor and his grandmother Milena are hiking in the mountains. His granny is an experienced hiker but the tiniest mistake can have disastrous consequences when climbing towards the peak. And the weather can change very quickly. If only Bor had just these kinds of worries! Last night he heard a dreadful fight between his granny and his mother. Now he understands, why Milena never visits her son, his daddy. But can granny ever change her mind? Will everything really be fine?

Sometimes we are forced to accept what comes our way, even though it is far from ideal or expected.
The boy Juniper lives in one of the pile-dwellings. Pile-dwellings are dwellings that in ancient times stood on the lake where the Ljubljana Marshes are today. Juniper’s family, led by Grandpa Volk, is large. While most believe what the elders tell them, Juniper does not. He is a curious boy. They cannot convince him that behind the high mountains, covered in eternal snow and ice, is the end of the world. So, Juniper takes the path under his feet and sets off on adventures.

This collection of exciting prehistoric adventures is based on true historical facts and is full of educational titbits.

“An exciting journey into the past, through which completely universal messages are conveyed to the reader. Especially about the importance of friendship and cooperation.”

Sebastijan Pregelj (1970) is a history graduate. He has been publishing stories in literary magazines since 1991. He has published four collections of short prose and seven novels. Five of those novels got nominated as finalists for the Kresnik Award - the award for the best novel of the year.
Juniper, a Boy from a Pile Dwelling

Juniper lives in a pile-dwelling settlement. He loves to listen to Grandpa Wolf’s stories and wants to become a good hunter, like his father. Juniper often visits Uncle Cloud, who makes unusual wooden objects, and helps him create a very special round object that will change the world.

Towards the Sea

When the ice thaws and the snow melts, Juniper and Black head off on a long and dangerous journey towards the sea. On their way, they discover that people are more interconnected than they have first thought.

By the Stone Tower

Juniper and Black reach the sea, where they meet new friends and learn about life on the coast. Enchanted by tales of giants and the land of mystery, they dream about crossing the sea, but are deterred by terrible news. Brave has fallen into the hands of Skinchin.

In Snow and Ice

Juniper and Black make their way across the mountains with a group of people. On their journey they have to overcome numerous obstacles, including a raging river and a precipitous ridge. Winter in the mountains is harsh and ruthless.

The Comeback

Men from the tribe that lives beyond the great oak, the landmark of their home territory, kidnap Black and Tit. Brin and his friends set off into the unknown to find the girls. However, there they meet a horrible figure, half-man, half swan.

Awards and praises:
The novel received the Večernica Award.

New Home

Their fathers were unprepared for the changes that the return of Juniper and Black brought to the Great Lake. Soon a new mound grew, where Juniper and Black created a new home with their friends. Over the long journey, they gained knowledge and experience, and now the future was theirs.
Stories From the Duchy of Carniola: Witch hunt

By Sebastijan Pregelj
Illustrated by Jure Engelsberger

Martin is a servant of the famous Janez Vajkard Valvasor. We learn about life at Bogenšperk Castle, where a gathering of numerous scholars and craftsmen is taking place. Their work is interrupted by the news of an escaped witch. Soon after, the cook’s daughter Katarina disappears. The men organise a search party. Only Martin sets off on his own ...

A superb book and book series for both history buffs and adventure lovers alike.

Midgrade
112 pages
160 x 230 mm

Witches
Adventures
History
Slavic tribes under the leadership of Ognjen (Fiery), the commander of the Slavic army, finally settle at the confluence of the two Sava rivers following a long journey from the east. Families are reunited, huts are erected, millet is sown. Kupalo – the bonfire festival marking the summer solstice – ushers in new love. Ognjen’s son Plamen (Flame) and Živa, the daughter of the commander’s deputy, fall in love. But Živa’s father has some reservations about this new union. Fists fly and death and expulsion get in the way of true love.

*Expulsion* is the first novel in the new historical saga *Ognjeni trije* (*The Fiery Three*) by Igor Karlovšek, who is known, among other things, for his collection *Ognjeno pleme* (*The Tribe of Fire*). The suspenseful adventure series takes place during the settlement of the Slavs on the territory of present-day Slovenia, before the formation of Samo’s Empire, a Slavic tribal union, and the Principality of Carantania. Historical facts (the novel is also accompanied by a foreword by historian Miha Pohar) are interwoven with the coming-of-age story, (first) love, finding one’s place in the world, and fighting for survival.

**The Pursuit**

Triplets Vuk, Vlad and Flame got their first taste of adolescent love. But both nature and their local tribal folk sometimes represent refuge and other times danger. Živa, Flame’s beloved, ended up in the abyss, and Zora, who formed a closer connection with Vlad, was kidnapped by a Bavarian tribe. In the second part of the saga, Vuk, Vlad and Flame are on Zora’s trail, but soon get involved in fresh inter-tribal disputes, while Živa is trying to survive another relentless winter high in the hills. Throughout the narrative, we follow the struggle for survival, during which the lives of our heroes hang by a thread.
The Tribe of Fire

By Igor Karlovšek
Illustrated by Marina Gabor, Nana Homovec

The narrative is centred on the five children of a commander of a Great Slavic Army. While their father is expanding the territories towards the west, they are left at the mercy of his scheming rivals, who see the children as an instrument of blackmail. But Ognjen’s children are hardly easy to handle: the cunning healer Ajda, the beautiful Mila, whom all animals follow, and the triplets – masters of the sling, bow and sword, do not intend to forfeit their lives any time soon.

"This youth’s adventure tale is set in the time and space of the Great Migrations at the end of the 6th century."

Igor Karlovšek (1958) is a writer, screenwriter, and lawyer. His first writings were published in various magazines, and at fifteen, he published his first novel. In 2004, his novel Gimnazijec (High School Student) received the Večernica Award. The content of his novels largely tackles social topics, drawn from everyday life. As a lawyer, he deals with different social issues and people living on the edge every day. He says he can physically see and feel some scenes and chapters during his preliminary preparations when he is “writing the novel in his mind”. “The actual technical writing is then more or less only a faithful following of the story that has already played out in my mind; the polyphonic structure of the novels is therefore in my mind before I actually start writing.” This simultaneous unfolding of different stories infuses his works with extraordinary tension and drama.
The Fifth Foul

By Igor Karlovšek

Due to his mother’s financial problems, Domen ends up at the very end of the world – in a place called Selce. A new home, a new school and a new basketball court await him there. He is a promising athlete and lives solely for basketball and puts everything on the line for his bright future in the sport. But just as this seems completely feasible, in addition to all other minor and major problems Domen faces, the writer decides to place another, perhaps impassable obstacle in the hero’s path.

_The Fifth Foul_ is a teen issues book in which sport plays the leading role. It’s an eventful, emotionally suspenseful novel, interwoven with fantastic mysteries from beginning to end.

“Be prepared for your hands to hurt while reading, as you’ll be clenching your fists so tightly while rooting for the hero!”

---

Goodbye, Lara

By Igor Karlovšek

A teenager Lara has been found murdered. Her parents, as well as her twin sister Tina’s worlds have come crashing down. After a few months, the police is still no closer to finding the perpetrator. Tina then decides to take things into her own hands and embarks on a dangerous hunt for the killer. Apart from having to deal with a great deal of own emotional turmoil, she is also forced to make decisions that she can only hope will be right ...

_Goodbye, Lara_ is an absorbing and impassioned murder mystery page-turner that will leave the reader breathless.

“Dangerous hunt for a killer that leads to a trap …”

---

Survival

By Igor Karlovšek

Teenage Simon is a rising star of Slovenian alpine skiing, but his skiing days are over when he gets into a traffic accident. His father is struggling to come to terms with the situation. To impress him, Simon decides to spend a month of his summer holidays in a forest and survive without the use of any modern tools. While there, he meets a 12-year-old girl who is on the run from her kidnappers. Can Simon with his new skills help her get away?

This is an adventure and a crime young adult novel with adept descriptions of survival in the wild, specifically in the forests. The book addresses the issue of growing up through a tense adventure story and excellently combines two poles of surviving in the face of natural and human obstacles.

“Surviving in the face of natural and human obstacles.”
The Storm Within

By Nejka Omahen Šikonja

Why does Tjaša want to be invisible? Is Viktorija really better than all the rest? Is football still Urban’s number one passion? Who does Anej have a crush on? What kind of worries does Erika have? And what goes on in the heads of parents and teachers? It is absolutely ridiculous to think students end the schoolyear as the same people they were at the beginning.

Young adult novel is guaranteed to be consumed in no time. Straight away, the author reels us in with a complex and exciting emotional hook, which involves her teenage heroes who find themselves at (yet another) life’s turning point – the end of elementary school and junior prom.

Nejka Omahen Šikonja (1983) began her story-telling career as a child. Her first youth novel, Silvija, won the Moja najljubša knjiga (My Favourite Book) award in 2000 – a young readers’ choice. The author’s novels centre around the coming-of-age adventures of young people who are faced with their first crush as well as problems of abandonment, the death of loved ones, and other psychological and social difficulties.

The Ballad for the Tree

By Mateja Gomboc

On one Tuesday a tragedy befalls upon Ada, a careful, hardworking, talented, and always a little anxious high school student. Her beloved Mike leaves, and she is left alone with a multitude of questions, feelings of guilt, and violent emotions ranging from grief to anger. Why, why, why? Their extremely beautiful love story is slowly drawn in front of the reader, as well as their life stories before it, including Mike’s mental problems.

The Ballad of the Tree is a shocking and extremely powerful book about dealing with loss, trying to accept the unacceptable, and understanding the incomprehensible.

Mateja Gomboc (1964) is a writer, translator, professor, and publicist. She writes for children and adults and also translates from Italian. Her books are poetic, her descriptions of inner and outer experiences are precise, and the problems and joys of children’s everyday life are very charmingly portrayed.
What can happen at a summer camp in nature, where a group of youths, cut off from modern technology, finds themselves? Considering that each of them has their problems, some very, others less serious, the answer is ... many things! Panic and aggressive outbursts, health problems, first sympathies, sometimes funny and sometimes quite serious communication complications, even a missing father ...

“Sometimes you have to leave your path to find a new way.”

Tine is a teenager from the countryside who meets a boy his age that comes from the city. The two become best friends and spend a part of their summer holidays together. They have fun, help with the work on the farm, talk about girls, get a pet ... Their summer, however, is cut short by dramatic events.

Aimed at 12-14-year-olds, the novel is animated and humorous, skilfully discussing themes such as the sickness and death of a parent and accepting a parent’s new partner. A delightful read, encouraging friendship and good relations among young people, neighbours and family members.
Where the Wind Sleeps
By Damijan Šinigoj

Age 12+
205 pages
135 x 200 mm
Suspenseful
Cave rescue
Young love

Blaž, a caving trainee, and Irena, an absolute beginner, head into a cave on their own, but the adventure that is supposed to end with a few good selfies soon turns into a struggle for survival. A forester has also gone missing, and rescue teams are already on the lookout … What do you get when an experienced author who is also an experienced caver selects a cave setting for his new young adult novel? A tense, convincingly written adventure!

Where the Wind Sleeps is a genuinely suspenseful book with a dynamic composition in which two plotlines intersect – one follows the tracks of a missing employee of the Forest Service, while the other tells the story of a boy and girl looking for an adventure, which soon turns dramatic.

Rights sold:
North Macedonia

Damijan Šinigoj (1964) is a writer, translator, editor, publicist, scriptwriter, and passionate caver. He has written two novels, four collections of short stories, and two youth novels. A documentary film and a feature film are based on his stories. His novels are full of suspense, dynamism, and wit.

"When the desire for some good selfies turns into a struggle for survival."
Slovenia’s best-known illustrator Damijan Stepančič opts for harsh and bloody imagery in this new comic-book interpretation of George Orwell’s “Animal Farm” of 1945, directly conveying the cruelty and perversion of the well-known parable on political rulership and the communist social system. The particular transformation of the pigs from “normal” animals to a power-hungry, ruling class with gluttonous, scheming apparatchiks is foregrounded especially well. One of the best-known and highly prized children’s book authors, as well as (children’s) poets of Slovenia, Andrej Rozman Roza, has masterfully transcribed Orwell’s text into dialogue and put it in the mouths of the animal protagonists. He thereby gives the story a new incisiveness and contouring in redux.
Pippi the Chick is a curious little chicken who explores the world inquisitively and courageously. Sometimes he finds what he’s looking for, sometimes he doesn’t, and sometimes he finds something he wasn’t even looking for. He marvels at the world, he admires it, he complains about it, and sometimes he decides that the nicest and best place to be is in the safe vicinity of Mother Hen.

Thirty fun, short, simple and transparent comics about Pippi are perfect for a child’s pioneering ventures into the world of comics. Suitable for joint reading with adults as well as for a child’s first independent reading sessions (the use of capital letters) and exploring the so-called “ninth art”.

“A little chick, enormous fun!”

"Iščem nekoga, ki bi mi bil podoben."
"Mislim, da bi se dobró razumela."
"V zraku ga ni."
"Na drevesu tudi ne.
"Kaj iščes, Pippi?"
"Če ni zgoraj, je spodaj. Na vodo si pozabil, Pippi."
"Ha, našel sem ga. Pippi vidi samo sebe."
"Bu!"
"A little chick, enormous fun!"
We meet Luka, Oskar, Lili, and Amir at the end of the school holidays. It went so fast. There were only a few awesome skateboard tricks, a handful of comics read, first-time cutting school, a field trip, and a bunch of homework, and here it was, the end of the school year. Again. With good friends, time truly flies.