



MAGYARORSZÁG  NYITOTT KÖNYV
HUNGARY—AN OPEN BOOK
CHILDREN'S BOOKS FROM HUNGARY
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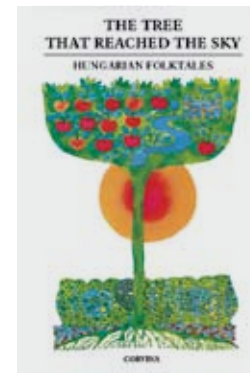
INTRODUCTION

To a great extent, the future of our “wee ones” is shaped by what sort of reading material they encounter during their early years. For a nation, there is a tremendous amount of opportunity and responsibility to display what they think of the smallest members of their society, how they view them, with what sort of intellectual nourishment they provide them.

Without the pretension of claiming to be complete, our catalogue presents the best Hungarian children’s books of the past three years. Rather than being selected according to publisher, the best fairy tales, rhymed fairy tales, storybooks and novels for the young were chosen according to topic in order to facilitate orientation among the newest superb pieces of Hungarian literature for children and young people. The selection is diverse and exceptionally plentiful, and we hope that Hungary’s stories may bring joy to all the children of the entire world!

ILDIKÓ BOLDIZSÁR
researcher in children’s stories

HUNGARIAN FOLKTALES AND LEGENDS



The Tree that Reached the Sky

The Tree that Reached the Sky

Hungarian Folktales adapted by Elek Benedek and Gyula Illyés

Illustrated by Gabriella Hajnal

Corvina Books Ltd., Budapest, 2004

64 p. with 17 full colour illustrations

The volume includes eight well known Hungarian folktales including The Princess of the Western Sun, Tom Thumb, Three Wishes, Peter and Violet, etc.



The Son of the White Horse

Fehérlófia

The Son of the White Horse

Hungarian folk-tale, illustrated by Marcell Jankovics

General Press, Budapest, 2004

48 p. fully colour illustrated.

The book is based on an animated film directed and illustrated by the famous Hungarian illustrator and animator, Marcell Jankovics. The tale is about a young, strong boy who battles monsters and wins – an ancient Hungarian story.



Cockerel's Diamond Half-Penny

László Arany: A kiskakas gyémánt félkrajcárja

Cockerel's Diamond Half-Penny

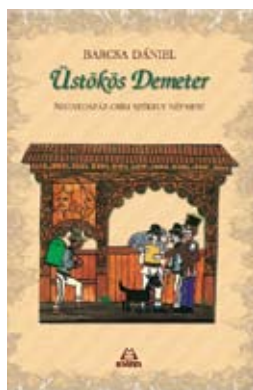
Illustrated by László Réber

Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 2004

24 p. with 14 illustrations

Several generations in Hungary have grown up with the present volume and its similarly entitled story. In this folk-tale collection by László Arany, the Sad Princess and The Thistle and the Birdie are also presented. The book dedicated to younger and older children alike is illustrated with László Réber's colourful graphics





Potter Demeter

Dániel Barcsa: Üstökös Demeter. Székely mesék
Potter Demeter, Transylvanian Tales

Illustrated by Dániel Barcsa

Kráter Publishers, Szentendre, 2005

208 p. with 43 black and white / 11 coloured illustrations

This book includes more than one hundred classic folktales from Transylvania, some of which were collected at the end of the 19th century. The special illustrations were made by the author/collector, exquisitely enhancing the message of these almost forgotten stories.



The Lamb with the Golden Hair

Ferenc Móra: Az aranyszörű bárány
The Lamb with the Golden Hair

Illustrated by Károly Reich

Móra Publishing House, Budapest, 2002

32 p., proportion of illustrations: 50 %

The Lamb with the Golden Hair is an adaptation of a Hungarian folk tale in verse and has been rewritten by almost all Hungarian writers. In the story, the Prussian King goes to visit King Matthias, the Hungarian King of legendary justice, and makes a bet that he can make Matthias's famous truth-telling shepherd, keeper of the wonderful lamb with the golden hair, tell a lie. The stake is half of their respective kingdoms. The Prussian King, helped by his beautiful daughter who gets the shepherd hooked, gets the lamb. The shepherd knows he must die because of losing the lamb unless he tells a lie to the king. Finally he decides to tell the truth in the language of flowers how the lamb got lost.

Ferenc Móra has made an adaptation of playful rhymes which tells the story of the truthful shepherd who for his honesty wins the hand of the Prussian King's daughter and half his kingdom to boot. The turns of the story and its figures are brought to life by the colour drawings of Károly Reich, the inspired visual interpreter of Ferenc Móra's works.



Hungarian Legends and Tales

Ferenc Móra: Magyar mondák és mesék
Hungarian Legends and Tales

Illustrated by Károly Reich

Cicero Publishing House, Budapest 2005, 225 p.

In the present book, Ferenc, Móra, one of the greatest writers of Hungarian literature, especially literature for children, evoked ancient memories of the wonderful feats of the history of Hungary, tales and legends which had been passed along from parents to children by simple storytelling. The reader will find, among others, the legend of the origins of the Hungarian people, some anecdotes about the famous Hungarian king, Matthias Corvinus and the legendary feats performed by Hungarian patriots against the brutality of the Habsburgs who occupied Hungarian land. Some instructive stories that praise the gumption and inventiveness of ordinary people are also included in this remarkable collection.

The book was illustrated by Károly Reich, a world renowned artist.



The Funny Wolf

A tréfás farkas – Magyar népmesék
The Funny Wolf – Hungarian Folktales

Illustrated by Dóra Keresztes

Noran Publishing House, Budapest, 2005

112 p. with 12 illustrations

This book contains 43 well-known Hungarian folktale adaptations. All of the stories are funny, the characters tricky or wacky, smart or dumb, haughty or humble wild beasts. We recommend the book primarily to children between the age of 3 and 10. The folktales were illustrated by the well-known and beloved Hungarian artist, Dóra Keresztes.

A few titles: The Funny Wolf, The Hedgehog and the Rabbit, The Peaky Man's Pudgy Piggy, The Wolf and the Fox pick up a Fish, The Piggy and the Wolves.





Hungarian Folktales and Legends

**Ervin Lázár: Magyar mondák
Hungarian Folktales and Legends**

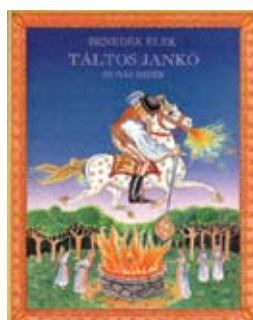
Illustrated by Líviusz Gyulai
Osiris, Budapest, 2005
98 p. with 17 color illustrations



The Boy Who Could See Dreams

**Magyar népmesék
Series of Hungarian Folktales**

Illustrated by Dóra Keresztes, compiled by Ildikó Boldizsár
Palatinus, Budapest, 2005
4 books, about 120 p. each
The Boy Who Could See Dreams – Sly Hungarian Tales
The Kittie Cat – Hungarian Fairy Tales
Sebastian Dragoner – Dragonish Hungarian Tales
The One Day King – Humorous Hungarian Tales

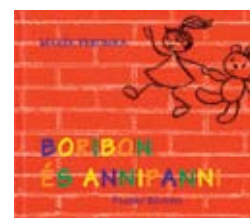


Johnny the Wizzard

**Elek Benedek: Táltos Jankó
Johnny The Wizzard – Hungarian Folktales**

Illustrated by Krisztina Rényi
Holló és Tsa. Publ. House, Budapest
2002, 111 p. with 15 ill.

FOR THE WEE ONES



Bombury and Annabelle



Good Night Annabelle



Laci and the Lion



Kippkopp in the Grass

**BORIBON és ANNAPANNI sorozat
The Bombury and Annabelle series**

Copyright: Veronika Marék
All books illustrated by the author
Pagony Books, Budapest, 2000–2005
Each book: 32 p., fully illustrated. Age: 1–4
Who doesn't remember Annabelle and Bombury, her teddy bear? Veronika Marék wrote and drew these characters in the 70s, 30 years ago, and they became children's favourites. Now, these same children – now adults with little children of their own – carry their love for these books to today's children, who seem to love them just as much. These are everyday stories well known to all kids. The easy dialogues and charming characteristic figures and illustrations are Veronika Marék's "trademarks". After republishing the five classic volumes of the original series, Pagony Books has published two brand new Bombury books.

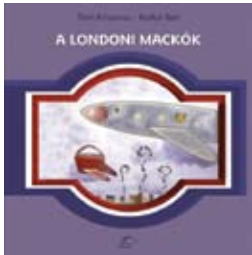
**Veronika Marék: Laci és az oroszlán
Laci and the Lion**

Móra Publ. House, Budapest, 2003
25 p. fully illustrated

**Veronika Marék: Kippkopp sorozat
Kippkopp Books**

Illustrated by Veronika Marék
Published by Ceruza Publishers, Budapest, 1986, 2003
25 p. each, fully illustrated
In autumn thousands of much-awaited, shiny brown chestnuts fall to the ground. They become little people or animals in the hands of children. One chestnut comes to life and sets off to discover the world. He is Kippkopp. He walks on the meadow in summer or in the snow in winter. He even climbs to the top of a Christmas tree. One day he finds a friend. She is Tiptopp, the chestnut girl. They even find five chestnut children. Their tales are in six volumes and their adventures are to be continued. Kippkopp in the Grass, Kippkopp in the Snow, Kippkopp's Children, Kippkopp and the Months





London Teddy Bears

Krisztina Tóth: Londoni mackók

London Teddy Bears

Illustrated by Catherine Burke, István Csáki, Gergő Magyar, Kata Papp, Bori Rutkai, Hilda Simon, Csaba Szentesi
Csimota, Publ. House, Budapest, 2003

18 p., 10 booklets

BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR 2003

Category Children and Youth Literature

This work is not an ordinary volume of poetry: it consists of ten small pamphlets, each containing two poems. Marci is the young protagonist of these poems who discovers the world around him with an enthusiasm that only a four-year-old can feel. The first part of each pamphlet allows the reader to peek into Marci's everyday activities, questions and games. This is followed by a more lyrical poem that takes us to a world of dreams, a world of imagination and fairytales. After the busy daytime we find ourselves in the calm and wonder of the night. Each pamphlet is illustrated by a different young graphic artist, each with their own distinctive technique.



Little Red Riding-Hood

Piroska és a farkas

Little Red Riding-Hood

Illustrated by Andrea Balogh, András Baranyai, Tibor Kárpáti, Bori Rutkai, Mari Takács

Csimota Publ. House, Budapest, 2006

24 p. each booklet, without a text

Csimota is making preparations for a special book series for the Bologna Children's Bookfair, 2006. Perrault's probably best-known tale: The Little Red Riding-Hood will be worked on by five young illustrators. The story of the world-famous tale is told without words, in pictures alone, showing the different style, interpretation and approach of each artist. The collection of 5 books will be presented in a box, bearing the first lines of the story in 20 languages, showing the long journey around the world of this tale.



Little Red Riding-Hood



Pumpkin & Pudgy in the Kindergarten



Pumpkin & Pudgy in the Air

Erika Bartos: BOGYÓ és BABÓCA sorozat

The Pumpkin & Pudgy series

Copyright: Pagony Books and Erika Bartos

Illustrated by the author

Pozsonyi Pagony Publ., Budapest, 2000–2005

All about 48 p., fully illustrated. Age: 1–4

Originally Erika Bartos had written and drawn her stories for her own children, but the cute little figures with their characteristic faces are loved by everybody. The children in her stories are portrayed as little bugs and other small animals, but with all the joys and problems of any real little kid. They fight, take care of the small ones, get angry and hurt and jump up and down when they are happy. All this makes it very easy to relate to them. The two main characters are Pumpkin, the ladybird-girl who lives in a house where everything is dotted, and Pudgy, the snail-boy who doesn't live in a shell, and in whose house everything curls and coils. In the stories we meet their friends, the stag beetle, the butterfly, the potato-beetle, all of them drawn both visually and verbally with the same care. Each published volume has two stories with simple plots and with figures and surroundings which are absolutely charming.

(P&P in the Air, .. in the Kindergarten, ...'s Christmas, etc.)

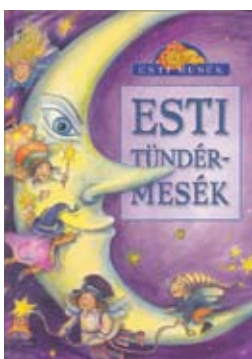


BEDTIME STORIES

BEDTIME STORIES



Bedtime Stories on Animals



Bedtime Fairy Tales



Tales from the Operahouse

Esti Mesék sorozat

Bedtime Stories Series

Author and/or compiler Ildikó Boldizsár

Illustrations: Krisztina Rényi, János Szinte, Livia Elek

Novella Publ. House, Budapest, 2005

All about 120 pages, A4 format

This series contains now six works: Bedtime Stories on Happiness, Bedtime Stories for Girls, Bedtime Stories for Boys, Bedtime Stories on Animals, Bedtime Stories on Love, Bedtime Fairy Tales.

The author has compiled lovely and popular folk tales from all around the world (for instance Estonian, Eskimo, African, Japanese, French, Bulgarian, Hungarian folk tales). The collection also includes tales by such famous writers as H. C. Andersen, Oscar Wilde, Grimm, La Fontaine and R. Kipling. These fabulous books contain several dozen wonderful illustrations. They can accompany a person from early childhood to mature adulthood.

Zoltán Fráter: Mesék az Operaházból

Tales from the Operahouse

Illustrated by Katalin Szegedi

Elektra Publishing House, Budapest, 2005, 76 p. with 48 ill.

There are nine exciting stories, each with a different, magic atmosphere in this picture book. The nine tales are based on popular operas and ballets like Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker or Delibé's Coppelia, Donizetti's Don Pasquale – and other famous operas composed by Mozart, Rossini, Prokofiev, Cimarosa and Weber. This interesting way of combining storytelling and richly-coloured illustrations is unique; the stories are exciting for children who can enjoy the characteristic, gorgeous pictures with the atmosphere of the original age. The illustrator, Katalin Szegedi, won the title of „The Illustrator of the Year” in 2005 from the Hungarian section of IBBY.



Dream Circus



The Most Beautiful Tales



Stories about the Miracles of Life

Katalin Szegedi: Álomcirkusz

Dream Circus

Illustrated by Katalin Szegedi

General Press, Budapest, 2003

52 p. fully colour illustrated

This charming tale is about rabbits who work in the circus. Once upon a time, a tightrope walker and a musical clown met and fell in love. They married and decided to start their very own circus. The book is published in co-production with Csodaceruza (Magic Pencil) Publishers.

Zsigmond Sebők: Legszebb mesék

The Most Beautiful Tales

Illustrated by Krisztina Rényi

Ciceró Publishing House, Budapest, 2003

145 p. with 10 whole-page illustrations

“In this book, I have collected the world’s lesser-known fairy tales and adapted them for young people.” Zsigmond Sebők (1861–1916) was a significant Hungarian writer and collector of fairy tales at the turn of the 20th century. In this collection, he supplies the reader with a colourful palette of fairy tale treasures from the most diverse countries and peoples of the world; in addition to French, Italian, Danish, Japanese, Hindi and Arab fairy tales, a Hungarian folk tale is also included, as well as works of our great authors Mór Jókai, Kálmán Mikszáth and Elek Benedek.

Mesék az élet csodáiról

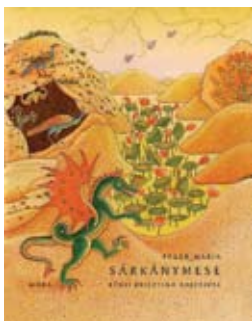
Stories about the Miracles of Life

Compiled by Ildikó Boldizsár, Illustrated by Mari Takács

Reader's Digest, Budapest, 2005, 250 p.

Stories from everywhere in the world about the wonders of life: the creation of the world, love, the wise and the brave.





Dragon Tale

Mária Feuer: Sárkánymese
Dragon Tale

Designed by Johanna Bárd,
 colour illustrations by Krisztina Rényi
 Móra Publishing House, Budapest, 2003
 88 p., 50% of it illustrations

It is not enough to be born, we must become what we were born for. If a dragon, be a dragon, if a man, be a man. The protagonist of Mária Feuer's series is a dragon. He is to proceed along the various steps of personality progress, to stand trials, to fight the four basic elements and to conquer the Empire of Sound, Light and Skies. This is a highly symbolic storyland, sometimes difficult to follow for a small child. It is easier, though, to sense the elevated atmosphere of fairy-tales, to recognize well-known folk tale motifs and to enjoy the exquisite, rich language. This beautiful story related to oriental philosophies and ornamental art was illustrated by Krisztina Rényi's gorgeous drawings and it won not only the Beautiful Hungarian Book Prize but also the Octogon Prize of the French International Literary Institute.



Puss N Socks' Adventuresome
 Trip to the City and How He
 Became a TV-Star There?

Zoltán Tóth: Zokni macska kalandos utazása a városba és ott hogyan lett TV-sztár?
Puss N Socks' Adventuresome Trip to the City and How He Became a TV-Star There?

Illustrated by the author
 Mérték Kiadó, Budapest, 2005
 50 p., fully illustrated

HUNGARIAN CLASSICS FOR CHILDREN

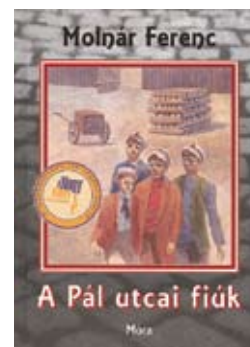


Adventures of Misi Mókus

Jenő Józsi Tersánszky: Misi mókus kalandjai
Adventures of Chippy Squirrel

Illustrated by János Kass
 Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 2004
 140 p. with 72 illustrations

The overly active Chippy isn't willing to get used to school discipline. He survives many adversities and interesting adventures, but finally his heart calls him home. The writer's excellent humour overflows in this wonderfully charming and funny story. The wonderful illustrations of János Kass make the fairy-tale novel even more memorable. A popular puppet film series has also been based on this favourite of Hungarian children.



The Paul Street Boys

Ferenc Molnár: A Pál utcai fiúk
The Paul Street Boys

a special edition, illustrated by Péter Kovács
 Móra Publishing House, Budapest, 2005
 176 p. with 10 colour plates

Ferenc Molnár's world famous novel contains the whole complexity of life: school and play, friendship and fight, separation and loyalty – everything, even death. Ferenc Molnár was capable of weaving this complexity into his novel for children's hearts and minds.

The story of Boka, Nemeček, Feri Áts and the others could take place in any corner of the world and is no less shattering at the beginning of the 21st century than a hundred years earlier, at its original publication. The Ground where we live, play, where we are happy and unhappy and sometimes die like Nemeček, must be saved. And it is true all over the world. This is probably the key to the unprecedented world success of The Paul Street Boys. Published in almost two dozen languages, it is a set reading not only in Hungary but in distant countries, too. The hundredth anniversary of its publication is celebrated by Móra Publishing House with a special edition illustrated by internationally renowned painter, Péter Kovács.





Dömötör Dörmögő, the Bear

Zsigmond Sebők: Dörmögő Dömötör
Dömötör Dörmögő, the Bear

Illustrated by Lívia Elek

Osiris Publishing House, Budapest, 2002

240 p., with 25 illustrations

Zsigmond Sebők (1861–1916) is a prominent figure in Hungarian children's literature – the father of many popular bear characters. His tales drew on the tradition of fables by Aesop, Phaedrus, and La Fontaine. While Sebők's lovable animals represent the same eternal human properties as those of his great ancestors, they live in the typical world of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This world, however, also projects a warm and hilarious image of our present life.



Dotty Annie in Farawayland

Mária Szepes: Pöttyös Panni Hetedhétországban
Dotty Annie in Farawayland

Illustrations by Ági Vass

Édesvíz Publishers, Budapest, 2005

132 p., fully illustrated

The last one in the Dotty Annie series, containing 14 books. Where is Farawayland? Annie's granny always sits in the same armchair in the living room and she says that Farawayland is wherever you want it to be... And she's right! Dotty Annie and her friend Pete travel through countless adventures before they reach the same conclusion. They sign a secret agreement in pure dragon's blood, they discover a secret, underground cave and then they meet Charlie who is on a quest to find his long lost grandmother. We are at the end of the Dotty Annie series and Pete and Annie are now in their third year of nursery school. This book and the whole of the series are illustrated by the naive and charming drawings of Ági Vass.

The series is able to look back on a fifty-year-old tradition in Hungary, with 14 volumes and reprints demanded every year by generation after generation of children and parents alike.



Small Raisin

Ágnes Bálint: Mazsola
Small Raisin

Illustrated by Vera Bródy

Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 2005

80 p. with 52 illustrations

Dwarflander Dwarf, a friend of scarecrows, has been left homeless on a nice day. Luckily, he has found a well-built pumpkin on the fields whose insides had already been carved out by tomtits. He furnished it smartly, made himself a plump straw mattress, a pretty little armchair, and was reading a newspaper after lighting-up. Suddenly, he heard some munching from outside. A piglet was gnawing on the house. Now you know who this piglet was, don't you? It was Small Raisin! Who, of course, stayed in the little pumpkin-home, and if you listen to this story, you may learn what else happened to Small Raisin, about whom a television series has also been made. This is one of the most famous books of the popular teller, in which the adventures of the loveable, gluttonous, and slightly lazy, but very kind piglet are revived.



Story About Vackor the Little Bear

István Kormos: Mese Vackorról, a pisze kölyökmackóról

Story About Vackor the Little Bear

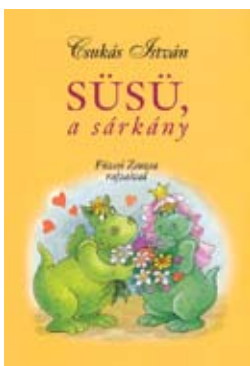
Illustrated by Dóra Keresztes

Osiris Publishing House, Budapest, 2004

95 p., fully illustrated

These works in the forms of both verse and prose can be of interest mainly for children of age 7 or 8. The hero of these tales, Vackor, an endearing, sloppy bear cub rambles through the same adventures as today's children who go to nursery or primary school.

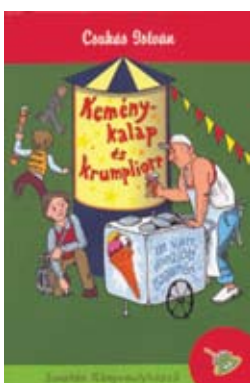




Süsü the Dragon

István Csukás: Süsü, a sárkány
Süsü the Dragon

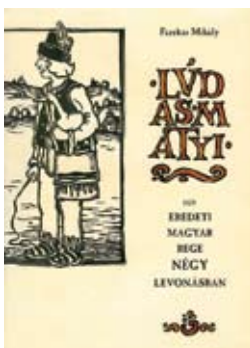
Illustrated by Zsuzsa Füzesi
 Gesta Ltd., Budapest, 2003, 168 p. with 64 coloured sketches
 Süsü, the legendary dragon, was sent on his way more than 25 years ago by István Csukás. Süsü is a big hulking, good-hearted dragon who was disowned by his father. On his first encounter with humans, he caused a panic, but soon became the object of universal affection. He had a secret wish to marry the Princess, but this didn't work out, so he became the Main-Main King's Dragon. His harmless advances and his lovable figure have made him a favourite of children and adults alike. The story was made into a unique puppet film which was very successful. International festival prizes, gold and platinum records followed.



Bowler-Hat and Potato Nose

István Csukás: Keménykalap és krumpliorr
Bowler-Hat and Potato Nose

Illustrated by István Hegedüs
 Könyvmolyképző Publishers (formerly Minerva Nova), Budapest, 2004
 270 p. with 8 illustrations
 István Csukás is probably the most acclaimed and most popular author of children's books in Hungary. This immensely amusing and adventurous story is one of his best-known works. It tells the story of a group of children who set up a circus in order to cheer up their friend who has fallen ill. The disappearance of some rare turtles from the local zoo constitutes the other thread of the plot. The children plunge themselves into the investigation with great enthusiasm, and in the end, their efforts are rewarded with surprising results. The book has also been made into a successful movie.

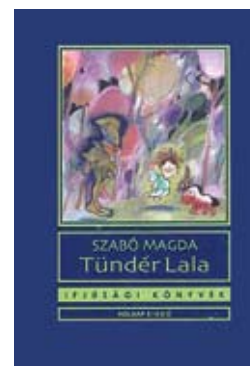


Matt the Gooseherd

Mihály Fazekas: Lúdas Matyi
Matt the Gooseherd

Illustrated by Ildikó Takács
 Budapest, 2000, 50 p.
 This was the first Hungarian tale from 18th century.

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS FOR YOUNGSTERS

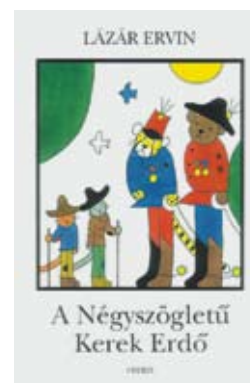


Lala the Elf

Magda Szabó: Tündér Lala
Lala the Elf

Illustrated by Ferenc Sajdik
 Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 2005
 224 p. with 40 illustrations

As everyone in Elf-Country can see, Lala is different from other elves. Queen Iris, his mother, knows it, too, although she is reluctant to admit it. No matter, there is something worrying if an elf-boy differs from his company. Not even the oldest elf can remember such a strange elf-child. It would be an exaggeration to claim that Lala had been the motivation for those incredible events which completely stirred up life in Elf-Country since everything leads us to Aterpater, the scientific magician. It would also be unjust to mistake Lala for the intrigues of the red-eyed magician. But judge for yourselves. If you trace back those exciting complications related to Queen Iris, Captain Amalfi, small Gigi and Csill, the pharmacist, perhaps you will understand Lala who is not a bad elf-child – just a bit different from the others.



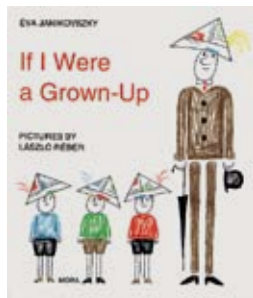
The Square-Round Forest

Ervin Lázár: A hétfejű tündér
The Seven-Headed Fairy
A négy szögletű kerek erdő
The Square-Round Forest

Illustrated by László Réber
 Osiris Publishing House, Budapest, 2002, 95 p.
 The fabulous short stories and novels written by Ervin Lázár revived Hungarian children's literature of the last decades. The playful titles of his books about seven-headed fairies and square-round forests also imply that he broadens the world of traditional tales via the surreal and absurd imagination of children. Nevertheless, he always depicts real-life situations with abundant humour and love. His funny-named characters have become beloved friends of today's children.



ÉVA JANIKOVSKY (1926–2003) Her books have been translated into 35 languages and scored success all over the world. She has created a unique fictional world that can't be mistaken for anyone else's in Hungarian literature, where it was the first to engage in "undermining the authority of grown-ups". One of her standard topics is the relationship of children and adults, always written from the child's perspective. Her equal partner was the graphic artist, László Réber, who drew with one single line what she expressed in a few words.



If I Were a Grown-Up

Éva Janikovszky: **Ha én felnőtt volnék**
If I Were a Grown-Up

Illustrated by László Réber

Móra Publishing House (in Hungarian, English and German),
 Budapest

40 p., proportion of illustrations: 50%

"Be happy while you're young!" the grown-up warns his own child or someone else's. Yet every child knows, even the smallest, that to be grown up is far better. A grown-up can do what he wants, whereas a child has to do what the grown-up wants.

If we didn't know this ourselves, we could have learnt it from Éva Janikovszky's book which was a tremendous success in Hungary and won the writer and her co-author, graphic artist László Réber, fame abroad. Maybe because we'd all like to live in a family (or in a world) where everyone gets the same-sized balloon, and if someone's is a little bigger, the only acceptable reason and explanation for that is "because I am their father".



Happiness!

Éva Janikovszky: **Jó nekem!**

Happiness!

Illustrated by László Réber

Móra Publishing House, Budapest, 2003

40 p., proportion of illustrations: 50%

Who's happy with what? It's a tricky question that confuses many grown-ups, let alone a child who for a long time had naturally known what he was happy with. It is an important moment of becoming a human being when a child realises that other people do not exist exclusively to please him. Éva Janikovszky's good hearted little kid starts racking his brain about it and through many funny episodes he draws some kind of a conclusion: sometimes you can make other people happy if you yourself give up happiness for the time being. But if love is involved, there's ample compensation: you can be happy with someone else's pleasure! You're lucky if you arrive at that conclusion. The author does not lecture us but convinces us that kids can come to naturally acknowledge this, guided by their heart and reason.



BOOKS FOR PRE-TEENS



Csutak appears

Iván Mándy: **Csutak színre lép**

Csutak appears

Csutak is a strange teenager to whom something is always happening and not exactly to the liking of the adults around him.

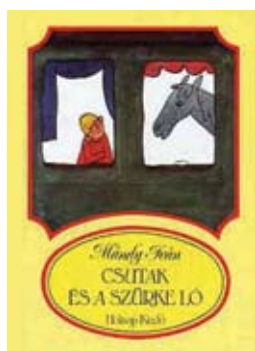
Iván Mándy: **Csutak és a szürke ló**

Csutak and the White Horse

Illustrated by László Réber

Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 1999, 192 p. with 11 illustrations

The old lady is seeking her old white horse in vain. She may rightly think that it has been stolen. Has the teenager protagonist of Iván Mándy's novel decided to rob? Or it is not a robbery but rather a lifesaving activity... Our young heroes strongly believe that they have saved the old steed from the slaughterhouse. Where should they hide it? How will the fate of the old be formed in the hands of the kids? It will be revealed in one of the prettiest and most poetic Csutak-stories.



Csutak and the White Horse

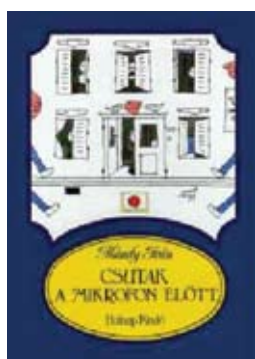
Iván Mándy: **Csutak és a mikrofon**

Csutak Behind the Microphone

Cover design by László Réber

Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 2001, 232 p.

This splendid piece of the Csutak series briefly relates how the protagonist becomes a "star" – not a film or TV star, nor a popular – so to speak – media celebrity. In the beginnings of the 60s it was an even greater issue to enter the magical studios of the radio. A partially extinct world is revived in the novel, and at the same time, the eternal child psyche is unforgettably drawn in the book, promising an enjoyable read for both children and young-hearted adults.



Csutak Behind the Microphone

Iván Mándy: **Csutak és Gyáva Dezső**

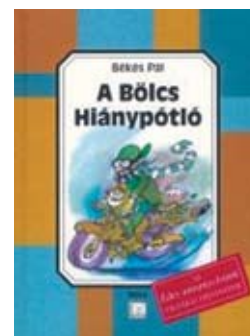
Csutak and Coward Dezső

Cover design by László Réber

Holnap Publishing House, Budapest, 2002, 195 p.

This story is lyrical and humane; this time the author brilliantly writes about the brave and the cowardly, leading his protagonist through a varied plot.

BOOKS FOR PRE-TEENS



The Wise Gapper-Stopper

Pál Békés: **A Bölcs Hiánypótló**

The Wise Gapper-Stopper

Designed by Győző Vida, illustrated by Ferenc Sajdik
Móra Publishing House, Budapest, 2005, 128 p.

In this novel, three protagonists (a clock with no sense of time, a not at all scary monster and a hole questioning its own existence) set out to seek the Wise Gapper-Stopper. Feeling lost and suffering from a severe lack of self-confidence, they put their hope in the Wise Gapper-Stopper. He, however, falls under the power of the gang of the wicked and dumb canheads who make his activity almost impossible. Eventually the three friends come to his rescue and by way of their gaps defeat the enemy and save the Wise Gapper-Stopper.

The story is enriched by folk elements, action scenes, fights, tricks, jokes, wisdom, heroism, self-sacrifice, everything needed in a modern tale. The Wise Gapper-Stopper turns the heroes' disadvantages into advantages with the moral that being different is not to be inferior, but can even be superior. The novel is illustrated by Ferenc Sajdik, master of illustrators, creator of several books and animation films.



Frite-bite

Pál Békés: **Félőlény**

Frite-bite

Designed by Győző Vida, illustrated by Krisztina Rényi
Móra Publishing House, Budapest, 2001, 128 p.

This novel is about a lovable yet terribly timid creature, who lives in the Little Forest. It is unfortunately no longer the place it used to be: there's no peace and quiet to be found there, monstrous monsters terrorize the inhabitants. Frite-bite is so scared that he locks himself up in his den among his books, hoping to escape the monsters' invasion. But of course he can't since the monsters view him as their chief enemy due to his books in which all monsters and evil are defeated. As long as these stories exist and anyone who believes in them, monsters cannot feel secure.

The inhabitants of the Little Forest and the monsters are animated by Krisztina Rényi's funny and inventive illustrations.





Trapiti

László Darvasi: Trapiti – Trapiti és a borzasztó nyúl
Trapiti – Trapiti and the Tremendous Rabbit

Illustrated by György Németh

Magvető Publ. House, Budapest, 2002 and 2005, 300 p. each

Everything is included in László Darvasi's novel which a good tale needs: good locations, interesting characters, amazing turns of the story, some miracles and a lot of fun. The main line of the two volumes is the same: to solve the unresolved mysteries and to investigate lost people and things. The oddity of the fables is that the characters have some strange amnesia; they are enchanted and have no soul. They can't remember anything, especially about themselves, about who they are. But if their town is threatened or there's some trouble, it's obvious that they are brainy and charitable and that they can defeat evil.



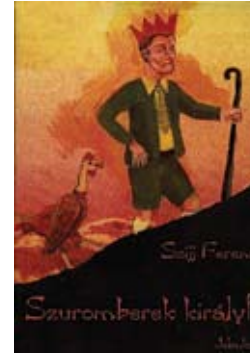
Mike's Book

Gergely Péterfy: Misikönyv
Mike's Book

Illustrated by Csaba Szenteczki

Kalligram, Bratislava, 2005, 96 p. with 32 illustrations

Mike's Book, the scene of which is set in both the real and imaginary worlds of a ten-year-old boy called Mihály Bordombi, nicknamed Misi (Mike), is a book of adventures. Mike disappears from Maria Street in Budapest. On Gutenberg Square he meets the Great Rascal, later the Elf, his grand grandpa, the Troops of Spoilt Beings, and finally the Captain of the Marauder. How he could fight these virtual beings and what is the endpoint of his adventures? We are told an exciting and magical story in this novelette, which won first prize in the Mother Tongue Grant contest of Hungary's Ministry of National Cultural Heritage.



Prince Pitch-Marsh

Ferenc Szijj: Szuromberek királyfi
Prince Pitch-Marsh

Illustrated by Gábor Roskó

Jelenkor, Pécs, 2001, 290 p.

Gripping, eventful and funny, this novel is peopled by animals, vegetables, objects and human figures with whimsical names. The nub of the story is that Prince Pitch-Marsh has to save Princess Maria Petalkin from the clutches of the Nightmare King, – a task made all the more difficult by the king's intimidating servant, Squirreltail. The members of Maria Petalkin's household – amongst others, Katie Vaxler, the Transylvanian Naked-neck fowl; Tivadar Apafi, the garden gate; the Cucumber sisters; and Little Orphan Vasalinovich, a ripening tomato – do more to hinder than help the hero in carrying out his heroic deed. And every time one thinks the goal must be just within reach something unexpected intervenes. Everyday things that might be familiar to a child – curling-tongs, a toothpick, a thimble – are transformed in a trice into objects with miraculous powers. The enemy's magic ring operates with a PIN code but our hero prefers to fight with natural weapons (at one point, for instance, a sharp-eared magic handkerchief makes an appearance).



Zoom

István Banyai: Zoom

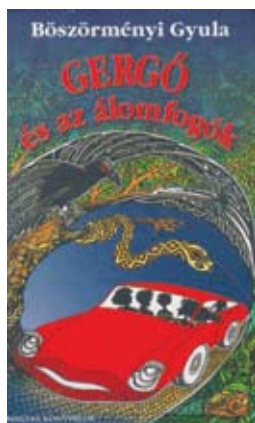
PrintXBudavár Rt., Budapest, 2005. 64 p.

Open this wordless book and zoom from a farm to a ship to a city street to a desert island. But if you think you know where you are, guess again. For nothing is ever as it seems in Istvan Banyai's sleek, mysterious landscapes of pictures within pictures, which will tease and delight readers of all ages. This book has the fascinating appeal of such works of visual trickery as the Waldo and Magic Eye books. – Kirkus Reviews. Ingenious. – The Horn Book Istvan Banyai is a commercial illustrator and animator as well as the author/illustrator of Re-Zoom and REM.



NOVELS FOR YOUNG READERS

NOVELS FOR YOUNG READERS



Greg and the Dreamcatchers



Greg and the Shaman Fight

Gyula Böszörményi: Gergő és az álomfogók **Greg and the Dreamcatchers**

Illustrated by Noémi Fábián

Jonathan Miller (Magyar Könyvklub), 2001, 408 p. with 100 ill. The setting of this fairytale-fantasy novel is present-day Budapest. The members of the Stumble-Meadow family have only lived together for a few months and really haven't managed to get used to one another quite yet, and this is causing considerable tension. They receive an unexpected invitation to attend the Global Convention of Healers, Taltoshes, Bards, Shamans and Other Magical People. Greg doesn't want to accept the idea that he is also a would-be shaman and has been really out of sorts since the sad death of his father. The boy becomes embroiled in a nightmare that takes place in the Realm of Dreams where he fights a battle to attain adulthood. But Greg has to resign his mind to his own destiny, his new family and his totem. As soon as he accepts his mission, he learns that Raven is being helped by a mysterious tribe and power, the tribe of the Dreamcatchers, who are able to travel in dreams but are not known by anyone. The mystery becomes more and more tangled when the Bearer of the Earth's Power, the Dragon, appears to destroy the World Meeting of Magical People.

New titles of the series:

Gergő és a bűbájketrec – Greg and the Spell Cage, 2003

Gergő és a táltosviadal – Greg and the Shaman Fight, 2004



Lovely MommyMommy!

Gábor Nógrádi: Édes mummymummy! **Lovely MommyMommy! – a novel**

Presskontakt Publishing Co., Budapest, 2005, 208 p.

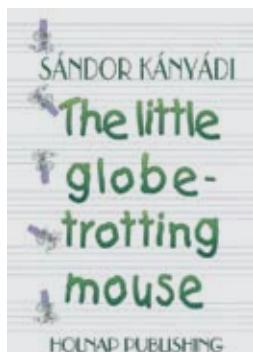
On a stormy summer morning Edit, the Bánáti children's mother, disappears in the sea at Nizza where she is on holiday with her family. She is thought to have drowned, only the ten-year-old Benedek keeps on believing that she is alive. Telling a serial tale to his four-year-old sister, Benedek makes the little Kata think their mother is coming home in a boat, accompanied by their regular tale-hero Miki Monkey, who is always repeating: Mommymommy! The boy suspects that his mother has been taken by aliens who will only release her when she gives birth to her baby.

Dóra, the pretty elder sister, complains about her sadness to her friends. Tamás, the father, is a violinist and plays constantly, while the grandmother wants to replace the missing Edit immediately by getting a babysitter, the fat Rizi-Lizi.

In fact Edit was picked up on the stormy sea by a drug-smuggling ship and put ashore in Algeria. The woman has amnesia and is taken to an Algerian clinic. A young black doctor does his best to bring her memory back, which eventually happens as she is having the baby. On Christmas Eve the phone rings at the Bánáti family's home: mum is alive.



POETRY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



The Little Globe-Trotting Mouse

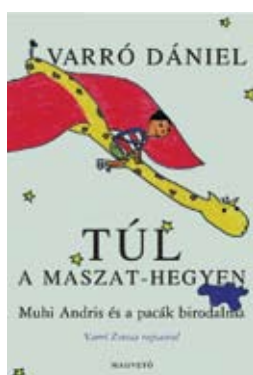
Sándor Kányádi: Világlátott Egérke
The Little Globe-Trotting Mouse

English, German, Hungarian versions

Illustrated by Emma Heinzemann

Holnap Publishing House, 2000, 116 p. with 24 illustrations

"A little orphan field mouse, tired of the endless autumn rain and going hungry all the time, suddenly got an idea. Why not try his luck in town?" And the hero of this lively little tale is off on a journey under the guidance of a prominent Hungarian-Transylvanian poet, Sándor Kányádi. Be prepared for adventure and plenty of excitement if you decide to tag along!



Over the Smear-Mountain

Dániel Varró: Túl a Maszat-hegyen
Over the Smear-Mountain

Illustrated by Zsuzsa Varró

Magvető, Budapest, 2002, 200 p.

The rhyming fable shows us the world of a six-year old child and his strange adventures in the empire of the Blobs, using several linguistic artifices. He meets a girl, and it soon turns out that she is a noble girl. Not only is she a noble, she is the lost princess... Finally our heroes find the lost kingdom, so the tale ends happily.



The Golden Leaf

András Visky: Aranylevél
The Golden Leaf

Illustrated by László Bátki

Harmat-Koinonia, Budapest-Cluj, 2000, 50 p.

POETRY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



Animals from the Paint Tube

János Lackfi, Krisztina Tóth, Dániel Varró:
Állatok a tubusból

Animals from the Paint Tube

Paintings selected by Róbert Alföldi

Artists featured in the album: Margit Anna; Imre Ámos; Endre Barzó; Gyula Batthány; Gitta Gyenes; Róbert Berény; Sándor Bortnyik; Béla Czóbel; Tivadar Csontváry-Kosztka; Noémi Ferenczy; Ernő Jeges; Béla Kádár; Béla Kontuly; Ödön Márffy; József Rippl-Rónay; Endre Rozsda; Hugó Scheiber; Armand Schönberger; Menyhért Tóth; Géza Vörös
Csimota Publ. House, Budapest, 2003, 48 p.

The first album is a collection of paintings for children from the greatest twentieth century Hungarian artists featuring rhymes from three contemporary poets, namely János Lackfi, Krisztina Tóth, and Dániel Varró. Each painting is accompanied by a rhyme ending in a riddle, guiding children to find the animal in the painting.



Sam's Trousers. Poems for Six and Three-Quarter Years Old

Endre Kukorelly: Samunadrág. Versek hat és háromnegyed éveseknek

Sam's Trousers. Poems for Six and Three-Quarter Years Old

Illustrated by Béla Tettamanti

Kalligram, Bratislava (Slovakia), 2005

56 p., with 50 illustrations

We should be grateful to Endre Kukorelly for considering children adult readers, and for the fact that he didn't write poems with babbling, puerile words just because of rhymes. Neither is he telling them what they should do or how to behave. The attic is full of advice, though a dusty coffer or skeleton hidden in there would be much more interesting. The author certainly knows this, so the forms and subjects of his poems as well as their language and grammar, are perfectly suitable for children. There is nothing left for an adult but to regret having grown up.





Fresh Ink! Contemporary Children's Poems

Friss tinta!

Fresh Ink! Contemporary Children's Poems

Authors:

László Barak, István Bella, Szilárd Borbély, István Csukás, István Eörsi, Vilmos Gryllus, Bálint Harcos, Attila Havasi, Attila Jász, Tamás Jónás, Péter Kántor, Sándor Kányádi, István Kemény, Levente Király, Ottó Kiss, András Ferenc Kovács, József Kőrössi P., Endre Kukorelly, János Lackfi, Noémi László, Mónika Mesterházi, Péter Sziámi Müller, Imre Oravecz, Lajos Parti Nagy, András Petőcz, Szilárd Pokorny, Jenő Ranschburg, Gábor Schein, Anna Szabó T., Ákos Szilágyi, Dezső Tandori, Ottó Tolnai, Kriszta Tóth, Dániel Varró, András Visky, István Vörös, Tibor Zalán

Illustrated by Mari Takács

Csimota Publ. House, Budapest, 2005

160 p. with 30 illustrations

From the standpoint of both appearance and content, Fresh Ink! is an original anthology of contemporary Hungarian children's poetry.

Almost 150 poems are divided into 10 cycles, one consisting of nursery rhymes for the youngest, another showing the difficulties of kindergarten-life or the average day in a family. There are poems about the seasons, animals, gibberish and nonsense verses, or pieces of poetry playing with different rhythms and the language. Fresh ink! gives an outstanding panorama of contemporary Hungarian children's literature since all known poets living inside or outside Hungary and writing for children are among its authors..

The illustrations of Mari Takács are just as outstanding as the poems themselves, making Fresh ink! not just a regular anthology, but a truly unique book.

NON-FICTION BOOKS



Talking Hands

Mari Takács and Tamás Vincze: Beszél a kéz Talking Hands I-II.

Illustrated by Mari Takács and Tamás Vincze
Csimota Publ. House, Budapest, 2004, 2005

44 p. fully illustrated

An exciting picture book for toddlers who can learn not only the names of animals and their 'language', but signs and gestures associated with these creatures.

This beautiful work features ten animal pictures, accompanied by unusual descriptions characterizing fish with thirst, frogs with beauty, monkeys with sadness, and a crocodile with cuteness.

Through the eyes of children, the ambulance siren and speeding motorcycles are all extremely interesting, especially when grandma is riding a motorbike. Kids like to imitate sounds like the whistle of the engine and the siren of the ambulance, and now they are offered signs and gestures to play with.

In the second volume of Talking Hands, our subject is city life. We present children the exciting world of public transportation while introducing sign language.



Picture Atlas of Hungarian History

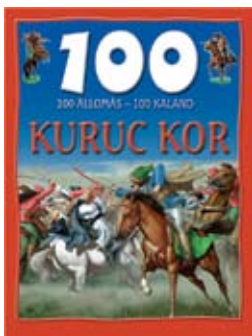
Dr. Erzsébet Szász: Magyarország képes történelmi atlasza

Picture Atlas of Hungarian History

Illustrated by Zoltán Jeney and Ágnes Kelemen
Lilliput Publishing Ltd, Budapest, 2005, 64 p. with 52 maps, 147 portraits and other full-colour illustrations

This richly illustrated volume follows Hungarian history from the settlement of the Magyars in the Carpathian Basin – more than 1100 years ago – to the end of World War II, featuring all the glorious and painful events of Hungary in thirty chapters. The maps serve as detailed hints to the affairs of the country's different periods and follow the line of the various occurrences. Every chapter includes a short intermezzo, which aims to provide a view of the most important and interesting events in contemporary Europe, as well as other parts of the world. The book is a colourful read for children aged 10–14 and is also a useful aid to the school curriculum.





100 Things You Should Know about the Age of Kuruts (about 1700)

Gréta Mattenheim: 100 állomás – 100 kaland: Kuruc kor

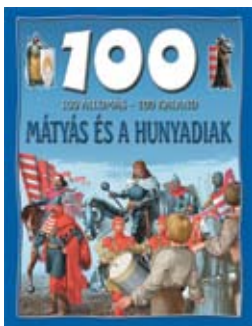
100 Things You Should Know about the Age of Kuruts (about 1700)

Illustrated by László Veres

Lilliput Publishing Ltd, Budapest, 2004

48 p. with 1 map, 112 portraits and other illustrations

The art work is based on a design and idea from the series 100 Things You Should Know created by Miles Kelly Publishing Ltd, UK. Why did the War of Independence led by Ferenc Rákóczi II break out at the beginning of the 18th century? How did it end and what happened after the War? These questions and many more are answered in this beautifully illustrated volume. Ferenc Rákóczi II is one of the most remarkable figures in Hungarian history. The War of Independence was predestined to fall, just as he himself together with his brave and faithful soldiers, the Kuruts. Still, Rákóczi and his men's fight against the oppression of the Hapsburg Dynasty was a turning point in the history of the Magyars and caused serious changes in the relationship of the Hungarian Kingdom and the Hapsburg Monarchy. The book is an exciting read for children aged 9 and above.



100 Things You Should Know about Mathias and the Hunyadi Dynasty (about 1450)

Gréta Mattenheim: 100 állomás – 100 kaland: Mátyás és a Hunyadiak

100 Things You Should Know about Mathias and the Hunyadi Dynasty (about 1450)

Illustrated by László Veres

Lilliput Publishing Ltd, Budapest, 2005

48 p. with 103 portraits and other illustrations

Where did the legendary Hunyadi Dynasty come from? Was King Mathias a righteous ruler or a rigorous tyrant? Who was Vlad Dracul and what did he have to do with Mathias? These questions and many more are answered in this beautifully illustrated volume. Children will be thrilled with the fascinating story of one of the biggest Hungarian kings – his life, the roots of his family in Transylvania, his fights and those of his father, János Hunyadi, against the Ottoman Turks, his legendary "Black Army", the Renaissance lifestyle of his royal court, his special relationship with the common people and the many fables of his acts. The book is an exciting reading for children aged 9 and above.



Playful Measuring

Viktória Papp, Anikó Míra Papp: Játékos mérés
Playful Measuring

Illustrated by Anikó Míra Papp

Sziget-Saxum Publishers, Budapest, 2005

64 p. fully illustrated

This colourful book is the continuation of the books Játékos egyszeregy (Playful Multiplication Table) and Játékos ábécé (Playful ABC). With their poems, colourful drawings and playful exercises, the authors help the 6–10 age readers to get to know the terms and usage of the units of measurement (i.e., length, area, capacity, mass, time, etc.).



Playful Drawing

Anikó Míra Papp: Játékos rajzolás

Playful Drawing

Illustrated by Anikó Míra Papp

Sziget-Saxum Publishers, Budapest, 2005

64 p. fully illustrated

This book is the newest volume of the popular series, after computing, reading and measuring, 7-8 age readers are introduced to the pleasures of drawing. Through a friendly fairy tale the writer teaches drawing step-by-step. With this book children will be able to draw several shapes, plants, animals, human figures. The exercises educate the little ones to use their creativity, their independent viewpoint and to love drawing.



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SUBVETIONS FOR TRANSLATIONS

The Translation Fund works within the frames of the Hungarian Book Foundation. Main tasks:

1. grants for translations from Hungarian
2. literary information centre.

According to the decision of the jury of the Foundation, the Fund can give a financial support to foreign publishers, in case of translations of Hungarian literary works (also children's literature), from 50 up to 100 percent of the whole translation costs, after publication.

The application of the foreign publisher must be accompanied by

- an application form
- short presentation of author, book, translator and publishing house (last catalogue)
- a copy of the contract with the rights' owner
- a copy of the contract with the translator.

Deadlines for the applications are MARCH 31st and OCTOBER 31st every year.

The Foundation transfers the sum granted directly to the foreign publisher after receiving 3 copies of the foreign language edition and a confirmation signed by the translator about the receipt of his fee. The translation must be published within two years, otherwise the grant is automatically cancelled.

More information and Application forms:

Translation Fund of the Hungarian Book Foundation

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