

Czech Books for Children and Young Adults 2020





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INTRODUCTION

Thirty years ago, President Václav Havel opened his first New Year's Address with the words, "Our country is not flourishing". He went on to warn that four decades of communist lies would take at least as long as that to put right in the minds of citizens. Regrettably, when we consider today's polarized society, with its scepticism towards multiculturalism and tendency to fall for cheap manipulation, we are forced to admit that his prophecy has come true. One indicator which does not reflect current disillusionment with the barely mature open society of the Czech Republic, however, concerns the liveliness of the publishing business, which at the moment of Havel's appearance on 1 January 1990 was returning to the norms of freedom – with an appetite that suggested a deputatation of magicians had doused it with the 'water of life' of the fairy tales. And this trend persists to such a degree that experts talk of an overheated market. It has long been the case that between 16,000 and 18,000 new book titles are published annually, which in terms of per capita consumption places the Czech Republic (population 10 million) in the top five in the world. Each year, the average citizen buys 11 books, while the number of public libraries (one per 2,000 inhabitants), where more books may be borrowed, is unparalleled elsewhere. The number of authors/artists and the quality of the printed product are on the rise – and this is especially so with literature for children and young adults, a genre which accounts for one ninth

of what is produced (year on year, the number of titles by domestic authors is between 400 and 500). We have plenty to offer the international reading public, too, as our catalogue testifies. We are proud again to be among Europe's leaders in this field.

One of the most ambitious new works is 'A' for the *Antarctic* (see p. 8), a concept encyclopaedia by artist David Böhm that is a throwback to the 1960s, when the Czech imagination set the tone in the field of educational materials with an artistic bent. Since the 1960s, children's taste has changed, and children's minds are now more easily distracted. In showing the importance of preserving a place on the planet where nature can make its own decisions, the author has borne in mind the child of today's liking for the video clip. If thieving humanity were to get in nature's way, it would probably end up like the natural world of Taťána Rubášová's comics *The Unexpected Robot Exodus* (see p. 34), where the vision of catastrophe is illustrated by Jindřich Janíček, winner of the Czech Grand Design prize. As things are, we have done great damage to the diversity of species on our planet, as the *An Encyclopaedia of Extinct Animals* (see p. 22), with text by Radek Malý, shows in grim but splendid pictures. As we face up to climate change, we have much to learn from our neighbours in the natural world; indeed, according to Jiří Dvořák and Daniela Olejníková's imaginative guide *We Live Here!* (see p. 14), we have been learning from them systematically since the

dawn of time. Voted a Most Beautiful Czech Book of 2018, it contains a simple aid that shows us what will happen if each of us continues to live at the expense of others.

Differences of opinion are best overcome by a return to our roots. A case in point is philosopher Petr Kořátko's tale of the benevolent Mrs Majerová (see p. 16), which assures us that the world has lost nothing of the linguistic magic by which Lewis Carroll thrilled the child's imagination a century and a half ago. In the company of Tereza Říčanová and Stanislav Setinský we can head to the heart of Istanbul (see p. 36) and Jerusalem (see p. 38) respectively, ancient places where people of different cultures have been trying to get along for two millennia. These books with original illustrations are the latest in an artists' series begun by renowned promoter of thoughtful tourism Miroslav Šašek. And what of Prague? It may be fourth on the list of the world's most-visited cities, but its mystique continues to enthrall foreigners and writers, who would wish to defend it from the 'post-tourism' of selfie-hunters and Hell's Angels on Segways. In his tale of the grotesque *H₂O and the Mad-eye Treasure* (see p. 40), wily Petr Stančík praises the city from below, mole-like, while in the second part of the *Dustzone* trilogy (see p. 24), Vojtěch Matocha

succeeds in blocking the phone signal and summoning the spirit of the Golem. Set one hundred years ago, Daniela Krolupperová's *Crown Trap* (see p. 20) demonstrates to the reader that when in Prague it is important to keep your eyes peeled and your wits about you, regardless of the era you find yourself in.

Another remarkably creative book and winner of the Golden Ribbon award is *Here Comes the Doctor!* (see p. 44), an unconventional history of medicine by a team of authors. The foldout picture-book *Let's Gooo!* (see p. 42) enters an interactive world of transport, where very young readers can give the imagination free rein; its illustrator Marie Urbánková was nominated for a Czech Grand Design award. More advanced readers can practise their skills with René Nekuda's *The Story Machine* (see p. 28), in which a storytelling lab becomes an instrument of discussion and understanding, setting the reader on a course that is surely the start of something good. In his momentous essay 'A Word about Words', Václav Havel discusses the miracle of human speech. Logocentrism still has the power to cure the ills of western civilization. What better time than now – when much of Europe is fumbling – for us to heed it?

Petr Matoušek
(for the authors of the catalogue)

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

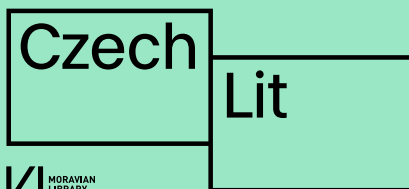
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

The Czech Literary Centre:

- Promotes prose, literature for children and young adults, poetry, drama, comics, non-fiction and new forms of literature
- Acts as an information hub for foreign publishers, translators, Czech studies specialists, event organisers and others interested in Czech literature
- Provides grants for authors to attend cultural events abroad
- Cooperates on international literature and translation projects with partner institutions abroad and in the Czech Republic
- Organises residencies for foreign translators, Czech studies specialists and authors
- Runs the bilingual website *czechlit.cz* with information about books, authors, grants, residencies and Czech literature news
- Cooperates with the network of Czech Centres, which promote Czech culture abroad, as well as with other governmental and non-governmental cultural and non-profit organisations and individuals
- Is involved in the presentation of Czech literature at book fairs abroad in cooperation with its parent institution
- Holds the annual Susanna Roth Award for young translators of Czech literature

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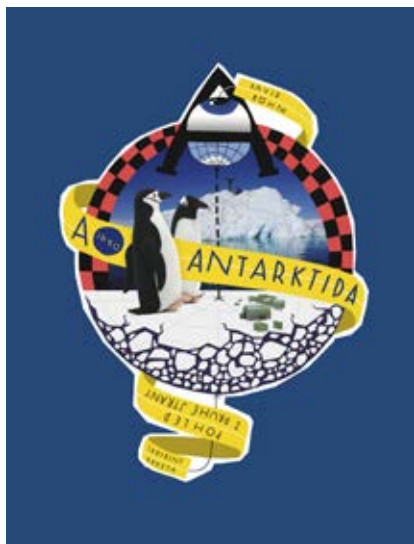


David Böhm 'A' FOR THE ANTARCTIC – A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Who hasn't dreamed at least once of what it would be like to live on a great white plain, with no trees and no permanent population? The continent at the very bottom of the Southern Hemisphere forces people to think about the limits of human perception and the bravery of those who set out through the blizzard for the icy desert—above all Roald Amundsen, conqueror of the South Pole, and his ill-fated rival Robert Falcon Scott. At the end of the book, David Böhm employs a witty illustration to thank

a team of polar explorers and artists (including comics artist Jiří Franta) for their valuable advice. The result of Böhm's efforts at popularization of his theme is a formally excellent encyclopaedia which covers far more than the harsh meteorological conditions of the Antarctic and the resilient fauna that live there; it is also about its interdependence with the global ecosystem in which the continent plays such a crucial role, to the exclusion of armies. Using a combination of artistic techniques, old maps, technical projections, even photographs of cuddly toys, the author has created a publication whose illustrations the whole family can enjoy.

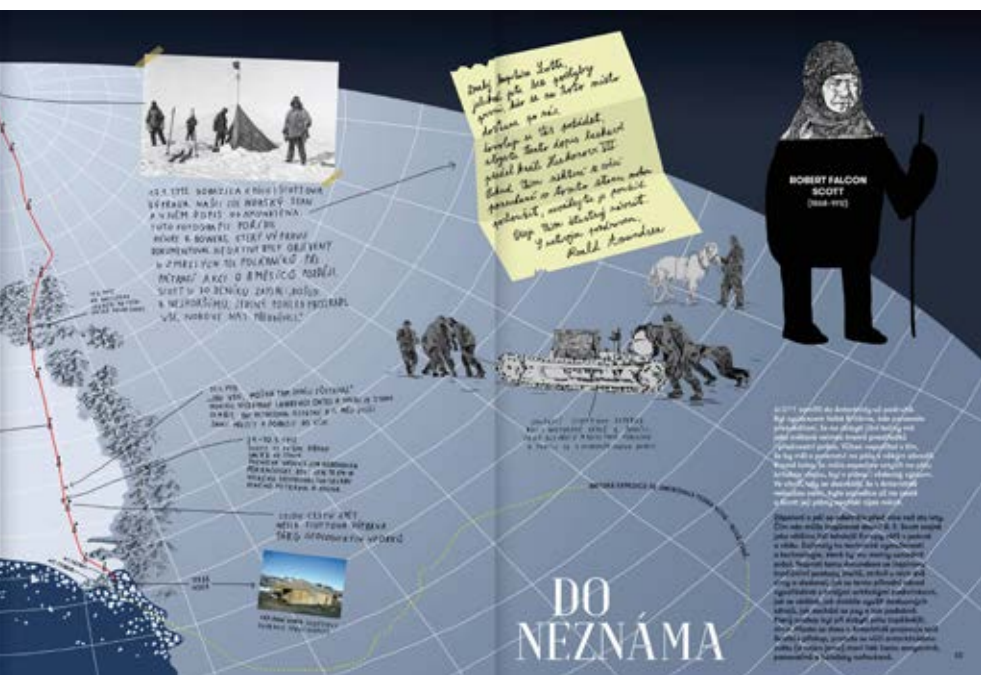
Age 7+



A JAKO ANTARKTIDA – POHLED Z DRUHÉ STRANY
Illustrated by the author
Prague, Labyrint / Raketa 2019, 76 pages (some foldout), ISBN 978-80-86803-56-2

RIGHTS:
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petra@labyrint.net

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Germany



Bára Dočkalová

THE SECRET OF PEBBLE MOUNTAIN

In this fantasy story for older children, the queen suddenly appears at the very moment Ratty and Shorty fall from the park into her endangered kingdom. Ratty and Shorty have been up to no good on Earth's surface, in the hope of joining up with the teenage toughs in the Gang. A cynic who is as hard on herself as she is on others, Ratty yearns in secret for her absent father, while Shorty has low self-esteem to contend with. With the help of new friends from the land of fairy

tales, our heroes overcome not only the strange creatures threatening the realm but also their own troubles. Bára Dočkalová's vivid, fast-flowing story is high on emotion and packed with suspense. The girl and boy's journey of adventure is played out on Ronnie, the last wild stallion, whose role gains in importance as the plot unfolds. The full-page illustrations by Petra Josefina Stibitzová lose none of the suspense while providing a bridge to everyday reality.

Age 9+

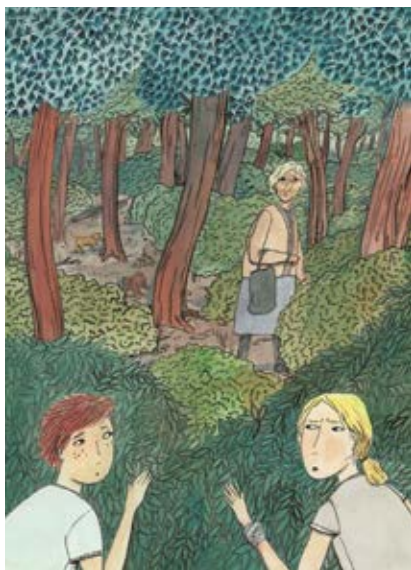


TAJEMSTVÍ OBLÁZKOVÉ HORY
Illustrated by Petra Josefina Stibitzová
Prague, Labyrint / Raketa 2018, 248 pages
ISBN 978-80-86803-48-7

RIGHTS:
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AWARDS:
The White Ravens 2019

German sample translation available.

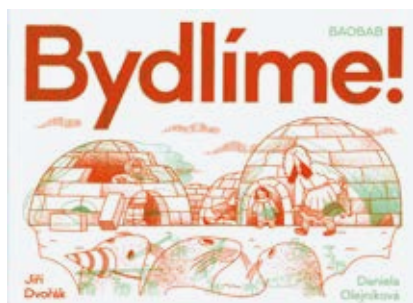


Jiří Dvořák, Daniela Olejníková WE LIVE HERE! STRANGE DWELLINGS OF ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

Side-printed with a tidy cover, this publication will gladden the heart of every structuralist. For Jiří Dvořák, the 'encyclopaedia in stories' is a proven means for popularizing themes of zoology and botany. Here, we follow the comparative method as we inspect the dwellings of selected animals and key themes from the discipline of ethology. As Aristotle observed, the human is zoon politicon; yet according to Desmond Morris, we are also 'naked apes', so we shouldn't be surprised by our natural inclination to 'ape' other creatures when we build our

habitations. The semi-detached house puts us in mind of the symbiotic relationship of crayfish and sea anemone, while the snail's shell, the birdhouse and the stork's nest are analogous with the human caravan, hotel and lighthouse. Using two colour filters, last year's most beautiful Czech book for children shows us where the inhabitants of our planet differ and where they are the same. Only by being good neighbours can we guarantee our survival—whether our home is a concrete tower block or a termite mound.

Age 9+



BYDLÍME!
Illustrated by Daniela Olejníková
Prague, Baobab 2018, 32 unnumbered pages
+ red and green plastic film
ISBN 978-80-7515-093-6

RIGHTS:
Baobab Publishers
baobabbooks@gmail.com

AWARDS:
The Most Beautiful Czech Books 2018

Petr Kořátko

ANNA, THE TALKING BROOK AND OTHER INMATES OF MRS MAJEROVÁ'S INSTITUTION

A talking infant, a chipmunk that talks in rhymes, inseparable dogs called Miss Liza and Miss Bertha, Crispin the wise tortoise and talkative Brook, who delivers not only messages in bottles but also children who have escaped from the weirdest nonsense written by Lewis Carroll. With subtle skill, the narrator of this children's story-cum-thriller steers us to an understanding of the order embodied by the rules of Mrs Majerová's institution, which takes in abandoned and seemingly insignificant creatures.

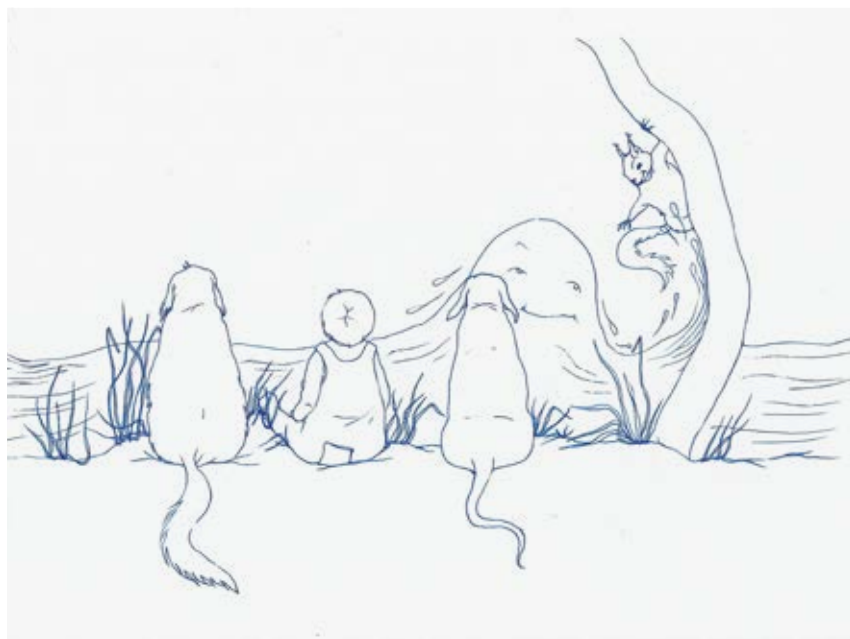
Inspired by the history of a real orphanage near Prague, Petr Kořátko's story flows through space-time loops with occasional outbursts like a brook endowed with the gift of speech. The prose ripples with poetry, and simple illustrations by the author's daughter Eva flow between the pages in support of metaphors on the need for a secure home and the flux, continuity and stability of existence. As Heraclitus observed, while water flows forever, the bed of the brook remains in one place.

Age 6+



ANNA, MLUVÍCÍ POTOK A DALŠÍ CHOVANCI
ÚSTAVU PANÍ MAJEROVÉ
Illustrated by Eva Kořátková
Prague, Meander 2019, 162 pages
ISBN 978-80-7558-068-9

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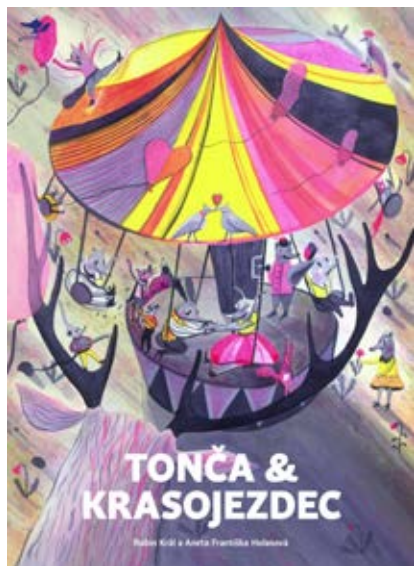


Robin Král, Aneta Františka Holasová TONI AND THE CIRCUS RIDER

“On the meadow, out beyond Třeboň/
where there’s space to spare/ they’re
preparing something grand/ some-
thing weird and rare./ Through a hole
in the wall/ Toni the goat saw the
splendour./ Maybe I’ll leave my shed/
for the terrace, she said.” Brought
to life in a large-format foldout
picture-book with watercolours in
purples, pinks and greys by Aneta
Františka Holasová, Robin Král’s new
poem is charming and humorous.

The central theme of these octaves set
in South Bohemia is Toni the goat’s
journey to the acrobat Hubert the hare,
with whom she has fallen head over
heels in love. But as her pilgrimage
takes her from pillar to post, Toni
comes to realize that there’s no place
like home. This fable in verse will
delight all readers, regardless of their
age, while there are details in the pic-
tures for everyone to enjoy.

Age 4+



TONČA & KRASOJEZDEC
Illustrated by Aneta Františka Holasová
Prague, Běžíliška 2019, foldout picture-book
with 14 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-907052-5-8

RIGHTS:
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Daniela Krolupperová

CROWN TRAP

In frosty February 1919 the republic of Czechoslovakia is still a 'babe in arms'. But foreign powers are already probing for its weak points. Daniela Krolupperová, a lover of excursions into Czech history, has placed this thriller in the distinctive setting of Prague's Podskalí, at a time when the success of the currency reform hangs in the balance. Two inquisitive boys and their seriously ill friend succeed in

the nick of time in uncovering a treacherous plot, in the process revealing all kinds of things about the prevailing mentality of the time and the position of children in society, as well as their joys and sorrows, duties and pastimes. This classic, persuasive adventure fiction is ably supported by highly expressive, self-assured illustrations by Barbora Kyšková, a splendid artist on historical themes.

Age 12+



PAST NA KORUNU
Illustrated by Barbora Kyšková
Prague, Albatros 2018, 144 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-05254-0

RIGHTS:
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AWARDS:
Golden Ribbon 2019 – Literary Section

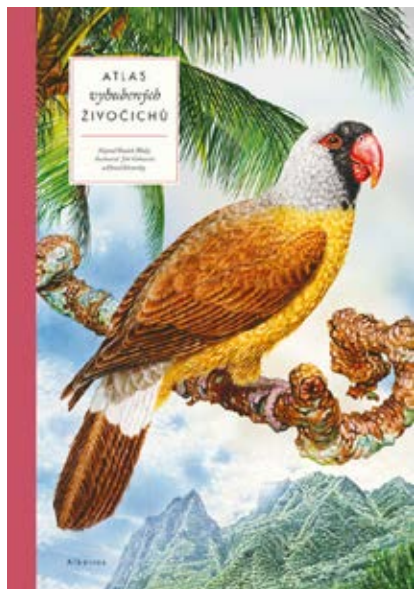


Radek Malý, Pavel Dvorský, Jiří Grbavčic AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF EXTINCT ANIMALS

The animals in the realistic pictures in this encyclopaedia can do no more than look out at us, as the one thing they share is their extinction. Although some ended their contribution to diversity on Earth long before the start of the Christian era, others received their death certificates relatively recently. Many perished because of changes in climate over which our ancestors had no influence. In recent centuries, however, the rash narcissism of the species

Homo sapiens has brought down an avalanche we have come to know as the sixth mass extinction. The forty entries and their full-page illustrations comprise a remarkable work of reference for young scientists, as well as giving them food for thought. We learn how the huia—a bird with beautiful tail feathers—was made to pay for human vanity, even though it was regarded as sacred by Maori New Zealanders, how the fate of the Zanzibar leopard was sealed by primitive superstition, and how the Chinese river dolphin was driven to extinction by the building of a huge dam. The grim list ends with the Neanderthals, whose co-existence with the modern human means that each of us has two percent Neanderthal genes.

Age 10+



ATLAS VYHUBENÝCH ŽIVOČICHŮ
Illustrated by Pavel Dvorský and Jiří Grbavčic
Prague, Albatros / B4U Publishing 2019, 88 pages
ISBN 978-80-00-05360-8

RIGHTS:
Albatros Publishers
foreignsales@albatrosmedia.cz



Vojtěch Matocha

DUSTZONE: BLACK MERCURIDE

The second part of a trilogy about Dustzone, a run-down old quarter of Prague, is a cause for celebration for teenage readers; after a series of honourable imitators, here at last is someone who can match Jaroslav Foglar for sophistication. Although Vojtěch Matocha bows to the master on a number of occasions, his fictional, action-packed world is vigorously autonomous. Although the prose flows

in bursts of several pages without dialogue, it always holds the reader's attention. As they journey to a place without working electricity or magnetism, let alone wireless technology, tenacious amateur detective Jirka and gifted mathematician En encounter secrets on matters taboo for their families. As they search for the black mercuride invented by Hanuš Nápravník, who was once a rival of František Křižík and Alfred Nobel, they must first uncover the connection between this mercury-based fuel and super-powerful explosive and a monster hidden for decades in tunnels beneath Dustzone. And they are in a race against time to find the Golem, for those who live in these parts have darkness in their soul and are repelled by incomers.

Age 9+



PRAŠINA: ČERNÝ MERKURIT
Illustrated by Karel Osoha
Prague, Paseka 2019, 264 pages
ISBN 978-80-7432-989-0

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RIGHTS SOLD:
Slovakia

English sample translation available.



Marka Míková

THE HOUSE IN RUGOLO

Challenging in terms of concept and graphic design, this book has a dual objective. The base storyline describes events in the lives of Czech twin sisters during a summer spent with their uncle in Rugolo, Italy. This relative is not a mere product of the author's imagination: Štěpán Zavřel settled in this village near Venice after his dramatic flight from his homeland in 1959, and his cultural and spiritual legacy here is considerable. He lived in a fabulous house filled with drawings and

mysterious out-of-the-way places. His niece has drawn on impressions from a less-than-calm holiday spent there by her parents. Each chapter of this novel opens with a black-and-white illustration by Jindra Čapek, a close friend of Zavřel who, like the artist, was active for the Bohempress publishing house in exile. This book is a fine souvenir for those familiar with sunny Italy and attuned to the charms of a girls' holiday. Plus, it is a splendid memorial to Marka Míková's illustrious uncle.

Age 10+



DŮM V RUGOLU
Illustrated by Štěpán Zavřel and Jindra Čapek
Prague, Book Dock 2019, 188 pages
ISBN 978-80-88066-16-3

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René Nekuda

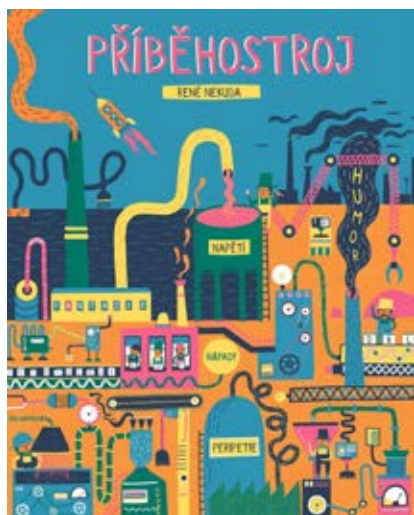
THE STORY MACHINE

Four illustrators worked on René Nekuda's *The Story Machine*, in which the reader creates their own story.

Three of these illustrators are involved with *Raketa*, the popular 'magazine for the children of clever parents': Johana Švejdlíková is joint editor-in-chief, while Aneta Františka Holasová and Marie Urbánková are regular contributors. Each spread in the book sets an art assignment, which the reader can complete creatively or use as a basis for an idea of their own. In every page-corner is a word or phrase whose role is immovable: characters are top-left, the

scene is bottom-left, while top-right is for props and bottom-right is for activities and qualities. The prompts are simple to use: having opened the book at random, the reader/player is challenged to tell a story and perform tasks involving drawing, writing, sticking-in and folding. Storymakers young and old move up through four levels of eloquence, from novice to master, encountering in the process a detective, a pirate, a magician, a robber/do-gooder, a confused teacher and a retired werewolf.

Age 5+



PŘÍBĚHOSTROJ
Illustrated by Aneta Františka Holasová, Tereza Lukešová, Johana Švejdlíková and Marie Urbánková
Prague, Labyrint / Raketa 2019, 136 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-86803-52-4

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China, Russia, Republic of Korea



Markéta Pilátová

THE GORILLA'S TALE

When interviewing Marek Ždánský, the keeper at Prague Zoo with whom she co-authored the book *The Gorilla's Dad* (2013), Markéta Pilátová was greatly moved by the tragic story of the male gorilla Pong. Pong grew up in dreadful isolation in the private menagerie of an Arab sheikh, having been caught in the jungle by poachers. After his arrival at the apes' enclosure of Prague Zoo, it took Pong a full year to be accepted by the other gorillas, acceptance achieved thanks largely to a seasoned female called Kamba—only for Pong's longed-for home to be swept away in a flood. Pilátová tells a touching story about a search for identity and the right to self-determination. In a classic example of Stockholm syndrome, Pong at first identifies with his captors—as a

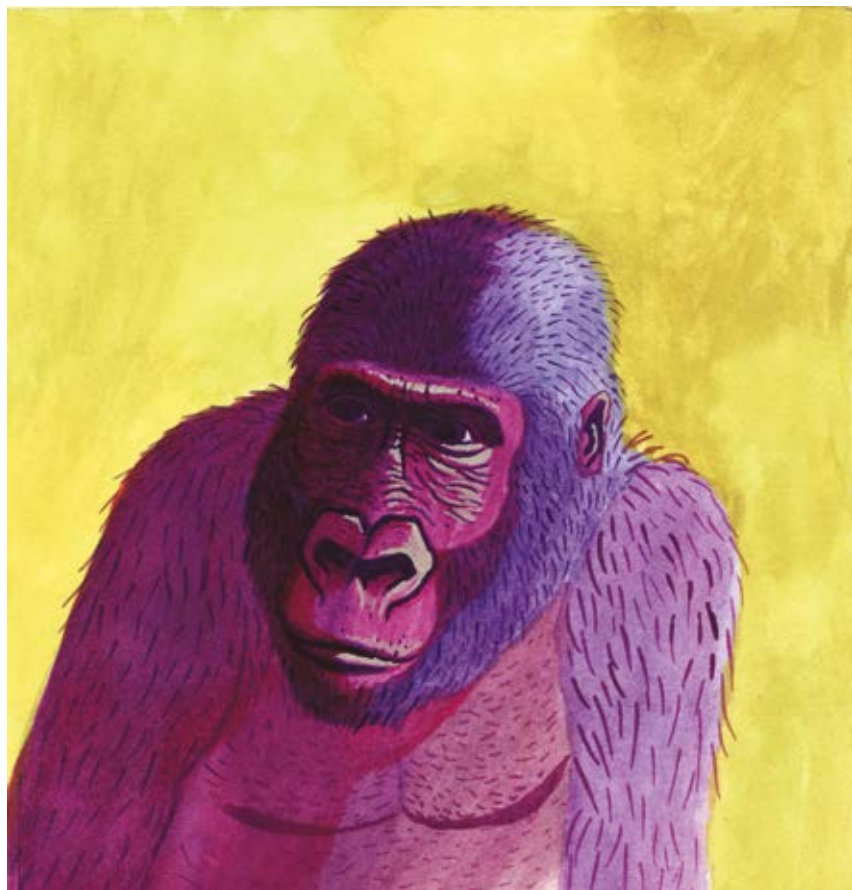
kind of 'Mowgli in reverse', he considers himself human. Kamba's evocative description of his native jungle guides him to an understanding of what he truly is; his return to his true self culminates in his appreciation of the enticing smell of young female apes. Pong's soul-searching—which is human, even universal in scope—raises a number of questions about the ethics of keeping animals in captivity. At long last, Pong ceases to be a victim of human domination. But soon after he escapes the cage of doubt in his imagination, the bars of his true captivity are washed away by the raging elements. The book does not allow him to drown in the flood, however. Instead, it sends him back to his paradise home in the rainforest.

Age 8+



CO VYPRÁVĚLA GORILA
Illustrated by Daniel Michalík
Prague, Novela bohemia 2019, 56 pages
ISBN 978-80-87683-95-8

RIGHTS:
Novela Bohemica Publishers
info@novelabohemica.cz



Milada Rezková, Lukáš Urbánek DOCTOR GULL IN FULL

Doctor Gull is quite a guy! Thanks to him, we have this whopping great volume of all nineteen great comic stories from the favourite children's magazine called *Raketa*. A hard-working children's doctor, he treats complaints and ailments in his office before getting on to his motorbike and riding off to perform good deeds in the service of climbers, canoeists and palaeontologists. We find him at a masquerade, on a football pitch, even at the Grand Prix. Here and there, Milada Rezková and Lukáš Urbánek spice the mix with an

inspiring, kindly lesson in verse that is sure to entertain children of kindergarten age. For good measure, they have added a choice between two envelopes of different colours. What's more, at the very beginning of the joyride with Doctor Gull, there is a twentieth, new story, in which we learn of the difficulties surrounding the birth of our favourite healer, featuring a Hawaiian shirt and the family of the legendary fisherman Popper from the Berounka River, who make occasional Dada-like appearances in the book.

Age 5+



RACKOMIX
Illustrated by Lukáš Urbánek
Prague, Labyrint / Raketa 2019, 136 pages
ISBN 978-80-86803-53-1

RIGHTS:
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petra@labyrint.net

Tatána Rubášová, Jindřich Janíček WILLIAM & MERIWETHER: THE UNEXPECTED ROBOT EXODUS

In the comics adventure *Podivuhodná robotí expedice* (A Remarkable Robot Expedition) two highly intelligent machines bearing the Christian names of William Clark and Meriwether Lewis—prospectors in the American Wild West—experienced a feeling familiar from the final scene of the movie *Planet of the Apes*. But their mission didn't end there. On their return to base, their processors are emitting sparks of horror. Facing an ecological

disaster, the city is governed by a commune whose cops are a menace; at every turn our heroes encounter a 'scrapyard' of a former civilization, so discovering ever more 'spare parts of ancestors'. As you can see, this dystopia has very little in common with the intergalactic squabbles of comics series such as *Futurama*. At the heart of Tatána Rubášová's cyberballad is misunderstanding: our metal heroes have no idea of the wickednesses humans have committed against each other and the natural world. In creating an error-strewn tragicomedy, whose bitter humour may appeal to university students of maths and physics, the author employs linguistic means to highlight distance by misunderstanding.

Age 12+



WILLIAM & MERIWETHER: NEOČEKÁVANÝ
ROBOTÍ EXODUS

Illustrated by Jindřich Janíček
Prague, Labyrint 2019, 96 pages
ISBN 978-80-87260-98-2

RIGHTS:
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Na horizontu se začalo rýsovat naše místo. Ždíllo se věřit, než když jsme ho opouštěli. Zvláštní. Po návratu se většinou věci zdají menší. Stíhaly se dny i noci, ale jeho obrysy byly stále obrovské. Navíc jsme si nepamatovali, že by se z něj kouřilo. Marlowether se radoval, že jsou to přístroje na naši počest. Nechtěl jím mu to kazit. Na výsledné zprávy o našem návratu sice nikdo nemesoval, ale třeba chytali přehrápění.

7



Marlowether postupoval ve svém výběrovém řízení na nový klobouk. A my jsme mohli sestoupit do dalšího patra. Kráčíme domovy našich pracců, elektrod našich elektrod. Místy kde pracovali, kde se resetovali, kde se synchronizovali. Jsem stále klidný. Početní podněty jsou zaznamenány, radostná malice chybí. Koneckonců jsem jenom na návštěvě u příbuzných. Měli jsme něco přinést. Dárkové balení trubkováků.

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Tereza Říčanová

THIS IS ISTANBUL

Baobab Publishers continues to add to its series of *To je... (This Is...)* guides to great cities of the world, which was started sixty years ago by artist-in-exile Miroslav Šašek (1916–1980). Now it is the turn of a new set of writers to impress us by their unique grasp of their topic. Tereza Říčanová shows us Istanbul as a two-millennia-old megalopolis straddling Europe and Asia, where voices of muezzins and street vendors ring out, the streets are thick with tavernas, and world-famous buildings reach for the sky (the Hagia

Sophia cathedral most prominent amongst them). Encyclopaedia-type spreads with vertical pull-tabs are a splendid aid for an understanding of the erstwhile centre of the defunct Byzantine Empire. The everyday life of the city is addressed through portraits of its inhabitants and explanations of Muslim rituals. *This Is Istanbul* is a precise, well-crafted, entertaining children's guide to Turkey's largest city, which is often referred to as the gateway to the Orient.

Age 8+



TO JE ISTANBUL
Illustrated by the author
Prague, Baobab 2018, 64 unnumbered pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-078-3

RIGHTS:
Baobab Publishers
baobabbooks@gmail.com

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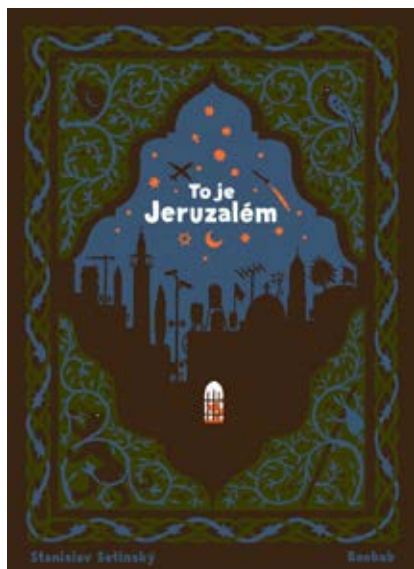
Stanislav Setinský

THIS IS JERUSALEM

Today's Jerusalem has emerged from thousands of years of building and demolition, with nations victorious and nations defeated, in which three cultures have met in dramatic, often turbulent circumstances. In Stanislav Setinský's unconventional guidebook, we are taken round the city's districts, modern and orthodox alike, by a Czech called Honza, whose beret stands out among the hats, yarmulkes, chapkas and headscarves in the knot of streets in the Old City. Instead of cakes, in his bundle he is carrying a length of 'tourist's' salami. Honza is not without self-deprecation as he considers cultural differences and commonalities. It is from these that the illustrations

develop the information content of the book: full-page illustrations in vivid colours alternate with small scenes which draw on metaphor to highlight points of interest. The dome on the temple on Mount Zion is not all that is round; so, too, are the kippa skullcap, pitta bread and the ubiquitous falafel. Explanatory notes on pilgrim sites are given at the very end, so making our reading something of a knowledge contest—although not every question requires an answer, of course. As our young readers may one day make their own way to Jerusalem, the author has added basic words of Arabic and Hebrew.

Age 8+



TO JE JERUZALÉM
Illustrated by the author
Prague, Baobab 2019, 52 pages
ISBN 978-80-7515-077-6

RIGHTS:
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Petr Stančík

H₂O AND THE MAD-EYE TREASURE

Schoolkids Hubert, Hugo and Ophelia—otherwise known as the H₂O rapid-response unit—are working on their second case, in which the discovery of an optical reducer sending our heroes to the microcosmos is a major player in the action. Only in a teeny-airship or a mini-submarine can they get to the top and bottom of things. Out of the nameless town of their first adventure, where our junior strike force battled fiercely for the local waterworks, a tourist-infested capital city of a hundred spires has emerged. This time, the element under threat is time itself, as measured by the astronomical clock in the Old Town Square.

The author's unfettered creativity has produced a lush burlesque with nods to the genres of pulp and noir, as evidenced by lampposts attached to underground passages, a Metro railway more Gothic than the one we know from drawings from 1940, to say nothing of raids performed by the lowlife who have set their minds on robbing the state bank. Petr Stančík would agree with fellow author Günter Grass's claim that the most pious literary minds express the most beautiful blasphemies; there can be no doubt that this applies to Stančík's love of Prague.

Age 10+



H₂O A POKLAD ŠÍLENÉHO OKA
Illustrated by Galina Miklinová
Horoměřice, Abramis 2018, 88 pages
ISBN 978-80-87618-02-8

RIGHTS:
Maria Sileny
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Ester Stará, Marie Urbánková LET'S GOOO!

The reader with a yen for discovery has a valid ticket for all road vehicles, train, water- and airborne vessels that sweep through this beautifully bound publication. Couplets commenting on the pictures urge the playful reader to pull up on every double-page spread to investigate the slide-out features and flaps, which serve to give the illustrations an extra dimension. Only in this way can the reader learn what a family takes on holiday, how snacks are eaten in the cab of a truck, where a

sailor dries his socks, or what buried treasure the digger operator has just passed over. Our very young explorers are guided by a fly called Elka, as imaginative as she is inconspicuous. Elka makes up for the fact that she has no ticket by keeping a photographic record. Another buried treasure in the book is its interactive nature: readers who wish to continue the journey under their own steam may cut out the vehicles from the loose insert and move them about the foldout map.

Age 3+



JEDÉÉÉM!

Illustrated by Marie Urbánková

Prague, POP – PAP 2018, 28 unnumbered pages
+ loose insert with foldout poster and 2 pages of cutouts
ISBN 978-80-906625-9-9

RIGHTS:

POP-PAP
marcela@pop-pap.cz



Petr Svobodný, Robin Král, Nikola Logosová, Zuzana Lednická HERE COMES THE DOCTOR! HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN SEVEN DAYS

This seven-day tour through the history of medicine will familiarize every family with cranial trepanation as performed by shamans, the origins of the Hippocratic Oath, the scale of the plague epidemics of the Middle Ages, and public autopsies at universities in Renaissance times; it also spares a few words for Freud's famous couch. Each day of the week addresses a certain kind of pain or features a check-up with a specialist, so allowing us to consider achievements of modern medicine we often take for granted and

to think about how the ancestors of today's 'white coats' would have dealt with these ailments. Petr Svobodný's text moves in concentric circles away from a thematic core, its educational content lightened by Robin Král's humorous rhymes. Nikola Logosová's illustrations and imaginative graphics by Zuzana Lednická remind us of the meticulously detailed drawings of the herbaria and anatomy atlases of yore, although the hyperbole used by the author to get under patients' skin is an eloquent reflection of the attitude of humanity to the body in the 21st century and to those it entrusts with its care.

Age 10+



POZOR DOKTOR! DĚJINY MEDICÍNY V SEDMI DNECH
Illustrated by Nikola Logosová; graphic design
by Zuzana Lednická
Prague, Běžílička 2018, 96 pages + poster
ISBN 978-80-907052-3-4

RIGHTS:
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AWARDS:
Golden Ribbon 2019 – Art Section



Bolest, ztráta krve a nebezpečí infekcí byly po staletí hlavními překážkami výraznějších operačních zákroků: od pravěkých trepanací přes ranhojčství středověku, drastickou praxi vojenských felčarů až k počátkům moderní chirurgie. Navzdory vylepšením **Ambroise Paré** v 16. století (podvazování cév při amputacích, **protězy**) pokročila chirurgie k úspěšným operacím nejen končetin, ale i vnitřních orgánů až s rozvojem narkózy a antiseptiky v 19. století.



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TREPANACÍ PONDĚLÍ



Obrázky slavných chirurgů 19. století je zachycují obvykle v akci: profesor obklopený asistenty v bílých plátech operuje pacienta nikoliv ve specializovaném high-tech sále jako dnes, ale uprostřed univerzitní posluchárny, sledován pozorně studenty v řemých oblecích. Také neslavnější chirurg své doby **Theodor Billroth** je takto zobrazen, snad při **operaci žaludečního nádoru**, kterou provedl na základě předchozích pokusů na zvířatech s pomocí anestezie a antiseptiky poprvé roku 1881 ve Vídni.



Nesnesitelnou bolest při operacích odstranilo až zavedení anestezie (znecitlivění). **Celková anestezie (narkóza)** s pomocí vdechování výparů éteru byla poprvé použita v roce 1846 při operaci nádoru čelisti americkým zubním lékařem Williamem Mortonem v Bostonu. V Čechách novinku použil jen o několik týdnů později Celestýn Opitz v pražském špitále milosrdných bratří. V dnešní chirurgii se užívá řada metod celkové i lokální anestezie.



Více oliv, méně fiků,
dopřejte si trochu lásky,
věnujte se tělocviku,
ráno chod'te na procházky,
nechte ležet všechnu tíhu,
besedujte s přáteli,
dejte si číst dobrou knihu,
 buďte více veselý!
Nechejte se natřít celý
olejíčkem po koupeli!
Žijte v klidu, žádný stres,
 budete zdrav ještě dnes!





Grants for publishing Czech literature abroad

Every year, the Czech Ministry of Culture awards grants to support the publication of Czech prose, poetry, drama, essays, comics and children's literature abroad. The grants cover books, excerpts and magazines.

BOOKS

Publishers can apply for funding for:

- translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- graphic design, typesetting and printing costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing)
- copyright costs (up to 15% of the total cost of publishing)
- promotion costs (up to 25% of the total cost of publishing)

In total, the grant can cover up to 70% of the total cost of publishing.

EXCERPTS

Publishers, agents and translators can apply for funding for:

- the translation of an excerpt of between 10–25 standard pages (1,800 characters with spaces)

MAGAZINES

Magazines can apply for funding for:

- translation costs (up to 50% of the total cost of publishing) of an issue where at least 50% of the total content is dedicated to original Czech literature

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form
- contract with the copyright holder
- contract with the translator (applies only to publishers and literary agents)
- CV and translator's qualifications (education, translated titles)
- the publishing plan for this year and next year (applies only to publishers)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- 15th May for books and excerpts to be published in the same year as the application is submitted
- 15th November for books and excerpts to be published in the following year after the application is submitted

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- The grant is paid to the applicant after the book / magazine has been published or excerpt has been translated. Proof of this has to be sent to the Ministry of Culture (for details see the grant application form).

CONTACT PERSON:
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+420 257 085 221

For more information visit:
www.mkcr.cz/literature-and-libraries-1123.html?lang=en



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
CZECH REPUBLIC

Travel grants

The Czech Literary Centre offers subsidies to support Czech authors travelling to literary events abroad (festivals, readings, book launches, lectures, debates etc.). The applicant can be an event organiser or an author.

Event organisers can request support for appearance fees, travel expenses, meal allowances, accommodation, promotion, interpreting and moderation costs. The subsidy can cover up to 70% of total costs for the event.

Authors can request support for appearance fees, travel expenses and meal allowances. The subsidy can cover up to 100% of the total costs. Accommodation is provided by the event organiser.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- completed application form
- budget for the event (applies only to event organisers)

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- Event organisers: can receive 40% of the awarded amount before the event (based on an invoice and proof that the author will be taking part in the event) and 60% after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation. Alternatively, they can receive 100% of the awarded amount after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation.

- Authors: can receive 50% of the awarded amount within 15 days after the presentation of the planned event in the organisers materials (on the basis of documentation proving the author's travel expenses and proof of the author's presence at the event) and the remaining 50% on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation. Alternatively, they can receive 100% of the awarded amount after the event on the basis of a final report, invoices and documentation.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- 31st March (for the period of 15th May to 15th October)
- 31st August (for the period of 15th October to 15th December)
- 31st October (for the period of 1st January to 15th March)

Selected literary awards in the Czech Republic

MAGNESIA LITERA AWARDS

Magnesia Litera is a set of annual Czech literary awards in many categories noticeably covered by the media which has been awarded by the Litera Association in cooperation with sponsors since 2002. The main award, The Book of the Year, features a financial bonus of CZK 200,000.

MOST BEAUTIFUL CZECH BOOKS AWARDS

The Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year competition looks at the polygraphy, graphic and illustrative aspects of books that are published by Czech publishers and printed by Czech printing companies during the previous calendar year. The award is bestowed in seven categories and students works category.

GOLDEN RIBBON AWARDS

With more than 20 years of tradition, annual Golden Ribbon prizes have been awarded to the authors of the best books for children and the young published in the Czech language. The Golden Ribbon is the only award in the Czech Republic focusing solely on children's literature. The prize is organised by the Czech Section of IBBY.

The Moravian Library

The presentation of Czech book culture at book fairs abroad has a long tradition. The Moravian Library, one of the leading Czech heritage institutions, has been in charge of coordinating the Ministry of Culture's national expositions since 2014. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, authorities of Czech literary culture and Czech Centres abroad, the Moravian Library focuses not only on presenting major publishing houses but also on small publishers and printers. Significant Czech literary awards and their winners, along with a selection of current fiction and non-fiction are presented within the framework of a thematic national exposition. The accompanying cultural programme aims at bringing Czech authors together in the form of discussions and readings, especially at the Leipzig Book Fair (focused primarily on translations) or at the most important venue, the Frankfurt Book Fair. Czech book culture is presented in a similar scope also at the book fair in Bologna, which focuses on books for children, and at the London Book Fair. The Moravian Library is also the parent organisation of the Czech Literary Centre, which supports and promotes Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic.

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