

Czech Books for Children and Young Adults 2023–2025





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Dear readers,

We have drawn up a shortlist of the many recently published, original Czech books for children and young adults which we think are most deserving of attention—15 exceptional books of captivating, imaginative stories, full of inventiveness and humour, meticulously put together and aesthetically appealing.

Some of these characteristics are obvious at first glance: the smallest book in the selection is the size of a pocket diary (*The Elderberry Bush* by Tereza Horváthová and Klára Zahradková), while the largest is a concertina book that can be extended to seven metres (*At the Fair* by Robin Král and Andrea Tachezy). The titles included reflect the wide-ranging interests of young readers, which are often determined by age, although a number of books are also recommended for family reading and will appeal to readers of every generation, even if only as a memory of their own childhoods (*In the Tent* by Lucie Lučanská or *Dictations* by Petr Borkovec and Andrea Tachezy).

Popular science books are the most likely to appeal as a joint read, as they combine entertainment with modern knowledge and reflect current social discourse. The books *Myco* and *The Bicycle* take pride of place here; their brief, simple titles communicate their subjects without narrowing the perspective.

Both of these books were also immediately popular abroad. *Myco*, subtitled “A Complete Report From the World of Mushrooms”, by Jiří Dvořák and Daniela Olejníková, won the prestigious Bologna Ragazzi Award in 2024, as well as the Czech Magnesia Litera prize, and was also included in the White Ravens selection and nominated for the Most Beautiful Czech Book of the Year award—as was *The Bicycle* by Ondřej Buddeus and Jindřich Janíček, which was published in parallel in the Czech Republic and Germany (in Lena Dorn’s translation), where it also garnered a nomination for the German Children’s Literature Award (Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis).

The intricacy of mycelium wows the reader, but so, too, does the view into the treetops, which fully engages the imagination—the playful watercolours by Zuzana Čupová in *Trees* are evidence of this. The highly original, award-winning book *Now* by David Böhm, with its unmissable silver cover, describes various concepts of time. The extraordinary picture book *Bridges*, by Magda Garguláková and Jakub Bachorík, reveals how to overcome obstacles and find shortcuts. Nikola Logosová’s original picture album *World Atlas – Europe* covers the beauties of nature, historical milestones, architectural monuments and tips for food connoisseurs.

While encyclopedic books fascinate us with their informative content and the unexpected ways in which it is presented, children’s and young adult literature is, understandably, more diverse in terms of its genres. Our selection includes modern fairytales and fairytale-like stories bordering on fantasy, such as the poetic tale that touches on social critique, *Fánek the Starsailor* by Jana Šrámková, illustrated by Margarita Khavanski, which won the Magnesia Litera prize in 2023, or the Advent story *Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light* by Jana Šrámková and Filip Pošivač, which has been adapted into an animated film, or the unexpected tale of the forest with a parrot and a fox in the title roles, called *Žako and Stopotvorná*, by Alžběta Dvořáková and Magdalena Rutová. Powerful, authentic and supremely well-told stories for teenagers are an essential fixture in kidlit. Our selection includes the winner of the Magnesia Litera award in 2025, the adventure novel *Bone* by Bára Dočkalová and illustrated by Zdenka Holub Pěvratilová, and also the latest by the highly respected Iva Procházková, *Joyo, Eleven and a Quarter*.

We believe that these new books will capture the attention of children and adults alike.

Jitka Nešporová, on behalf of the authors’ collective

CzechLit – Czech Literary Centre

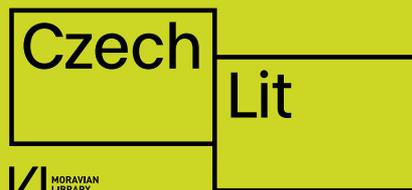
is a state-funded organisation supporting and promoting Czech literature abroad and in the Czech Republic. The centre is a section of the Moravian Library.

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- 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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Jana Šrámková & Margarita Khavanski FÁNEK THE STARSAILOR

Fánek recounts the times he spent with his dad reading a golden book about the biblical flood, around which they wove a shared fantasy of an ark floating through the starry sky. Shortly afterwards, his father has to go far away for work, leaving him to deal with sad but ultimately routine worries about his mother and his ailing grandparents as well as new friendships. Time passes, Fánek grows up, and after his father's unexpected return they bond

with each other through a boat trip on a lake and the resurfacing of a treasured memory. Although the story is set in an unspecified time and place, it has a relevant message for contemporary readers. The Czech-Belarusian artist Margarita Khavanski has made use of various drawing techniques, and her illustrations with their soft-focus appearance and attention to detail resonate with Jana Šrámková's unique, linguistically rich text.

Age 6+



FÁNEK HVĚZDOPLAVEC
Illustrated by Margarita Khavanski
Bežiliska, 2022, 52 pp, 230 x 330 mm

AWARDS:
2023 Magnesia Litera Award – For Children and Youth

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frantisek@beziliska.cz
www.beziliska.cz





Dívají jsme se nejvíc, jak tu šla. A pak jsme se jeden druhého ptali: Už vidíš? A když jsme oba kývlí, jako že vidíme, řekli se: Tí, dno, jedná, toť! A na to jsme oba zapřeli své přívěsy do msta, kde se podle nás poškodá voda s obědom. Někdy naše prsty ukázaly hodně blízko sebe. Ale nikdy úplně stejné. Nebo i když jednou stojat, přišel zase každý kousek Jumi.

„Co se stane, tatí,“ zajímalo mě, „co se stane, až koráb na tu čaru dopluje?“

Táta otáčila mi nedělní spát. Bledla mě ze sna a do snů mě doprovázela. Samozřejmě jsem věděl, co se stane na další straně. Ze snů si voda začala vydat. Je to spoustě vod, jak jsem viděl, na kterém koráb stane, že z toho ostrova nakonec bude vysočina hora, pod kterou na dalších stránkách osídle svět. Ale máš se nechtělo hovořit. Nechtělo se mi odolat. Jestli se. Z čete knihy mě totiž nepochybně pravil příběh toho strání.

„Co se stane, až koráb na tu čaru dopluje, přepočít? Hraje blbě obědom? Řekla, táto, možd by plout obědom?“

Táta pokrčil dlouho usazoval. Dal si před prst pusu, pokrýval hlavu a přemýšlel. Někdy a toho mhouřil oči a někdy je úplně zavrel.

„Kdy by byl kapitan hodně spálený? řekla kometič, když jsem první věřil a ve svých neznámých mstě, když blběti užle kspředu a blběti tu čaru počítě jako my. Paska, pak myslim, že by mohl.“

„Že by plál obědom a nahoru a pořád vstát?“

„Že by plál obědom a pořád vstát.“

„Až do vesmíru, tatí?“

„Třeba až do vesmíru. Ale to by bylo složité. Jen si to představ, každé zvíře v lodi by pak muselo mít vlastní skafandr.“

Táta se pořád tvářil vážně a já ho poslouchal s očima dokola, jenže pak jsem si představil všechny ty zuby, plaménky, veřky a hady v malých komunistických obcích a smysl jsem se smát. Rozesmál jsem se na čtce koi, směl jsem se s táto oba a koma před snami čar zřít.

FÁNEK THE STARSAILOR



„Někdy jsem si říkal, že bych se chtěl stát hvězdným plavcem. Když jsem byl malý, tak jsem si říkal, že bych se chtěl stát hvězdným plavcem. Když jsem byl malý, tak jsem si říkal, že bych se chtěl stát hvězdným plavcem.“

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FÁNEK THE STARSAILOR

Jiří Dvořák & Daniela Olejníková MYCO: A COMPLETE REPORT FROM THE WORLD OF MUSHROOMS

Jiří Dvořák has already led several successful expeditions into the worlds of both plants and animals in his books, and his exploration of the fungus kingdom is every bit as fascinating and sophisticated. Leaving anthropocentrism to one side, we take a look at the mysterious and poorly known lives of fungi via a fictional magazine, in which mushrooms write

about mushrooms for mushrooms (and others). The newspaper sections (interviews, chronicles, experiments), composed in bright colours, playfully combine facts with inventive linguistic humour and supply readers with a great deal of comprehensible new knowledge. They cover the evolution of fungi, describe their multiple ecological roles, demonstrate their healing properties and clarify what the world would look like without them. The accompanying illustrations are also playful and witty, with a startling, distinctive colour scheme printed in just five colours, and the sophisticated graphic structure gives a firm order to the fountain of creative ideas. In 2024, the book won both the prestigious international BolognaRagazzi Award and the Czech Magnesia Litera prize for children's literature.

AWARDS:
2024 BolognaRagazzi Award – Non-Fiction
2024 Magnesia Litera Award – For Children and Youth
2023 The Most Beautiful Czech Books – Literature for Children and Young Adults (3rd place)

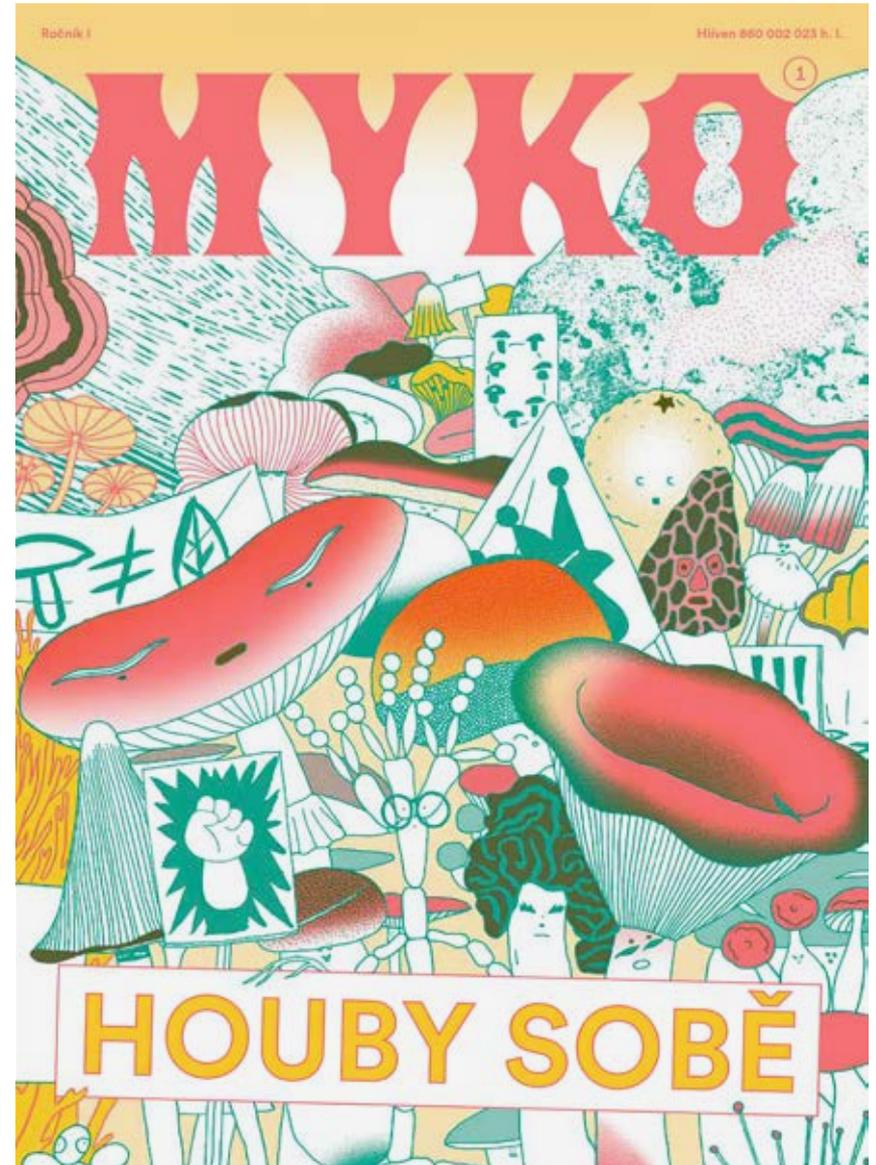
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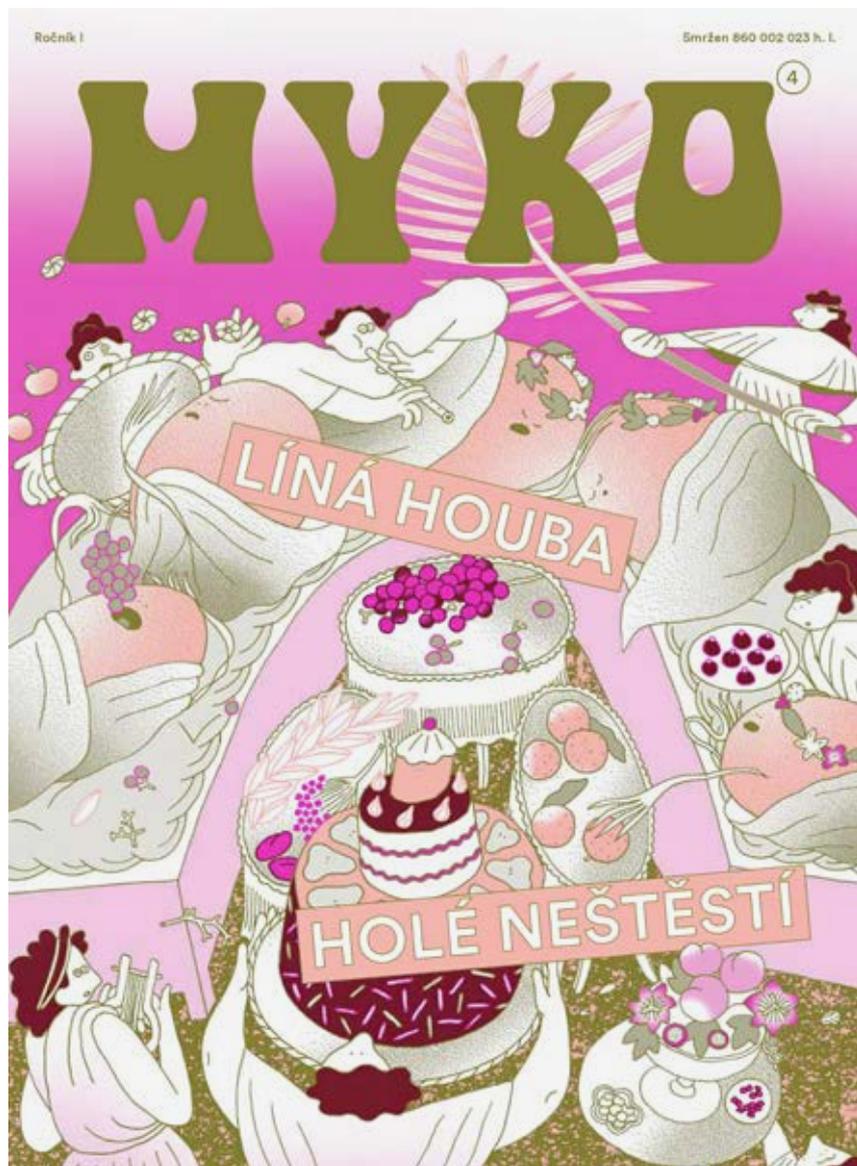
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Age 11+

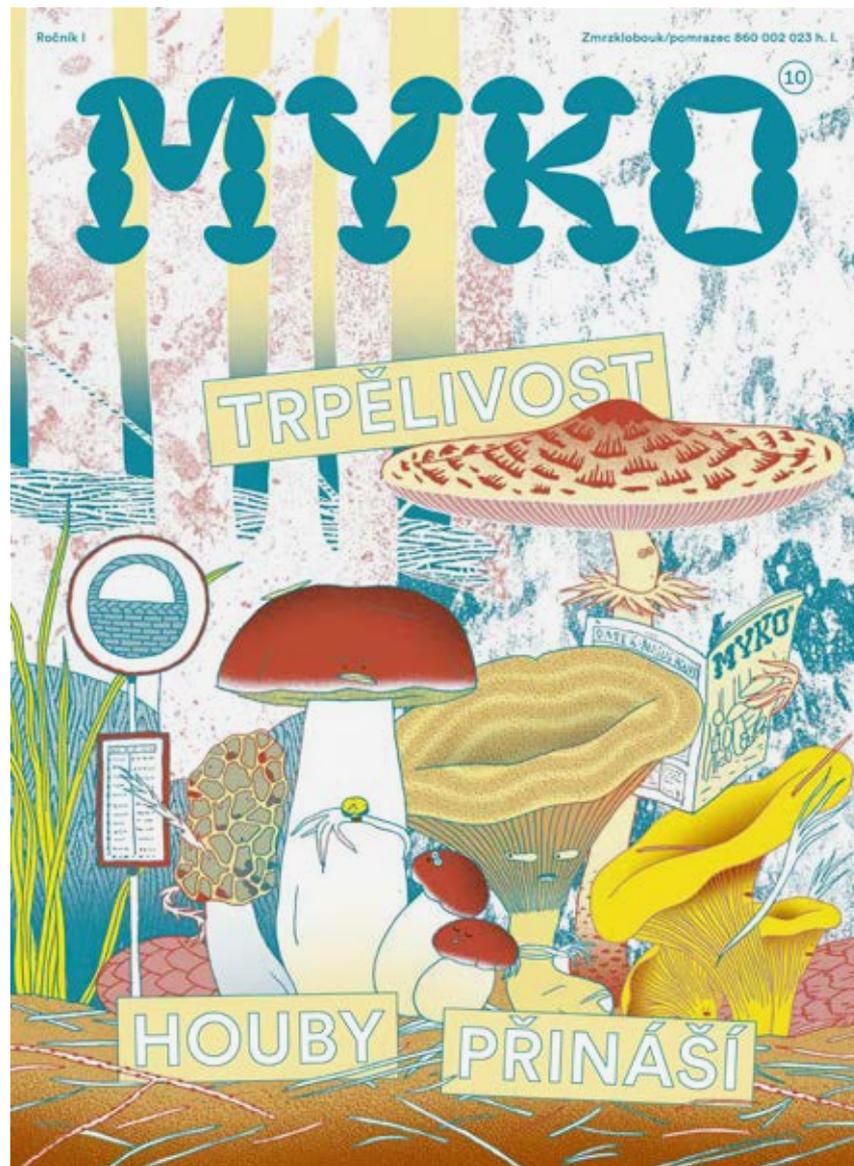


MYCO: KOMPLETNÍ ZPRAVODAJ ZE SVĚTA HUB
Illustrated by Daniela Olejníková
Baobab, 2023, 96 pp, 200 × 273 mm





MYCO: A COMPLETE REPORT FROM THE WORLD OF MUSHROOMS



MYCO: A COMPLETE REPORT FROM THE WORLD OF MUSHROOMS

David Böhm NOW

Subtitled *By the Time You've Read This Sentence, 21 Children will Have Come into the World*, this lavish paperback is not merely an encyclopaedia of data about the quantity which mysteriously gives everything on Earth a fourth dimension, including memory and the stamp of impermanence. There is astonishing ingenuity behind David Böhm's conceptual approach to the illustrated reference book, which he has already successfully employed in his previous books exploring the functioning of the head (*Head in Head*, 2013), modern urban planning (*The City for Everyone*, 2020) and the role of Antarctica in our planet's ecosystem (*A is for Antarctica*, 2019).

Age 9+



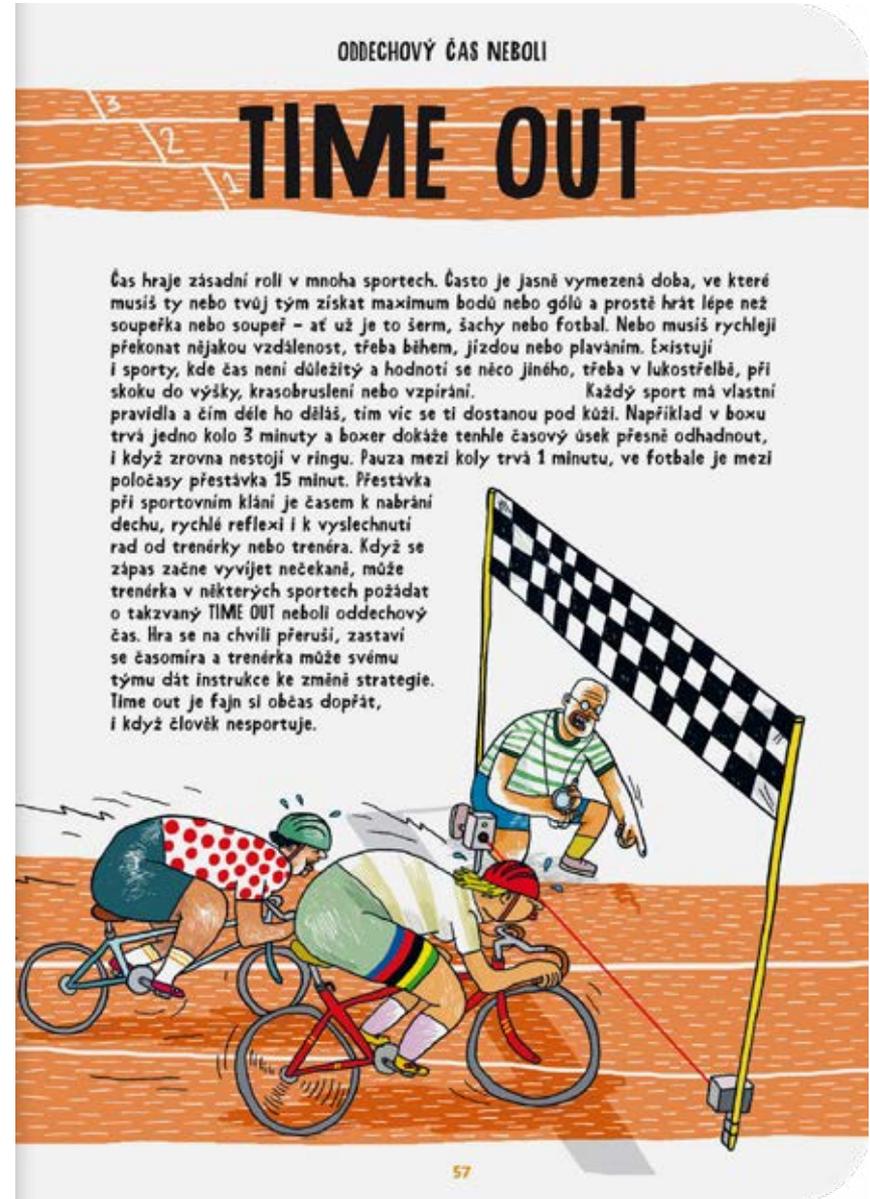
TEĎ. NEŽ DOČTEŠ TUTO VĚTU,
NARODÍ SE NA ZEMI 21 DĚTÍ
Illustrations by David Böhm
Labyrinth, 2023, 120 pp., 149 × 210 mm

In *Now* Böhm introduces older school-age readers to the variable length of time and its influence on our inner selves, while also posing philosophical questions about its purpose. The book teaches us to allow ourselves moments of meaningful boredom within that relativity, while time continues to flow steadily on, driven by laws it is not necessary—or perhaps even advisable—for us to know about. The pace at which the book examines its subject is no less dynamic. Fun facts in the style of Dorling Kindersley alternate with collages and comic strips; a section in the form of a diary is followed by a striking visual call to action—in part an ecological one, so that we will still have something to measure with our timepieces in the future.

AWARDS:
2024 Golden Ribbon – Literary Section: Non-Fiction
Literature for Children and Young Adults

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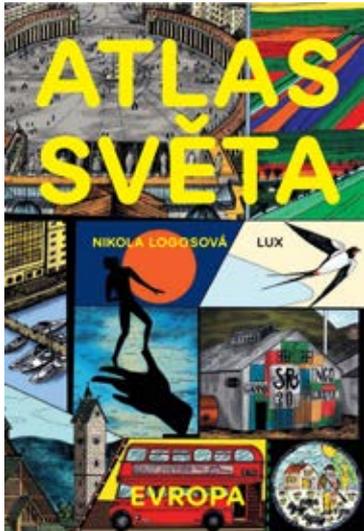
Nikola Logosová WORLD ATLAS – EUROPE

21

A large, illustrated atlas that brings together the most interesting facts from the geography, history, art and gastronomy of all 46 European countries. This unique picture album collects both typical and more unusual facts, figures and images, curiosities and cultural artefacts in a thoughtful sequence of striking, full-colour drawings and portraits, and provides explanations that are both factual and engaging. In the introduction, the author artistically introduces herself, her surroundings and her close friends and family, including the publishing house Lux, which published this book. A humorously annotated gallery of the

flags of European nations is followed by double-page spreads devoted to each country in alphabetical order. Alongside basic geographical facts, the book also provides an original view of European cultural heritage—readers will learn what a kantele is and what it looks like, where cravats come from, which country is the postage stamp superpower, and what a croissant and a kipferl have in common. Taste sensations are also included in the description of the Czech Republic: visitors to our country are encouraged to try not just beer, but also open sandwiches or Olomouc tvarůžky, a pungent soft cheese.

Age 7+



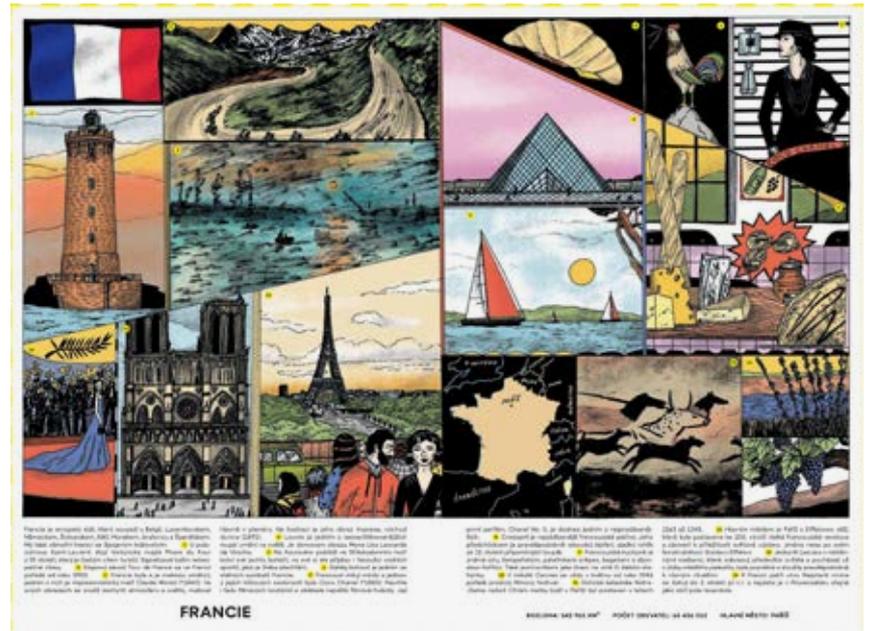
ATLAS SVĚTA – EVROPA
Illustrated by Nikola Logosová
Lux, 2023, 108 pp, 230 × 340 mm



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WORLD ATLAS – EUROPE



WORLD ATLAS – EUROPE

Zuzana Čupová

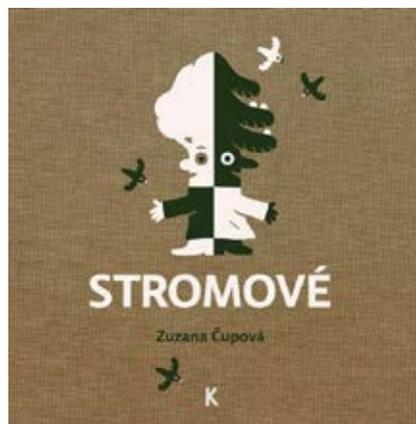
TREES

25

Three dozen deciduous and coniferous trees typical of both the Czech landscape and many others parade past the reader in this original picture album by illustrator-animator Zuzana Čupová—which is also her authorial debut. Each double-page spread playfully introduces one tree species; detailed drawings of the leaves, flowers and fruits, and primarily personified illustrations, complement the brief, informal and frequently poetic description of the species' characteristics. Thus the trees become cheerful figures with branched treetops

instead of heads, caught up in the cycle of the four seasons. The beautiful cherry tree exchanges her white spring veil for red summer earrings; Ms Linden's head is sprinkled with little hearts; in the autumn, the rowan's green hair hides edible jewels that will provide a feast in the long months of winter. The water-colour illustrations also wittily indicate the uses of wood: the blackthorn walks with a walking stick, the oak carries a barrel, the yew shoots from a bow—bonus details that will stick in the memory of readers big and small.

Age 7+



STROMOVÉ
Illustrated by Zuzana Čupová
Knižní stezka k dětem, 2023, 72 pp, 200 × 200 mm

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VRBA JÍVA
kočky

TREES



JEŘÁB PTAČÍ
mráček

TREES

Jana Šrámková & Filip Pošivač TONY, SHELLY AND THE MAGIC LIGHT

A fairytale story set during Advent about two children with unique but hidden gifts. Tony's body glows with light, so his protective parents keep him at home, where he amuses himself by making masks. Shelly and her mother, a former ballerina, move from place to place before settling in the uncanny building with a conservatory where Tony lives. She owns a magic torch that transforms everything into a colourful geyser of fantasy in the heroes' imaginations. They both long for a friend, and each

Age 9+



TONDA, SLÁVKA A KOUZELNÉ SVĚTLO
Illustrated by Filip Pošivač
Albatros, 2023, 136 pp, 170 × 221 mm

finds a precious kindred soul in the other. Author Jana Šrámková has pertinently used colloquial language, which lends authenticity to the story; two colours are used to differentiate between the children's dialogue. Filip Pošivač's original illustrations alternate funny line drawings and whole-page saturated acrylic base images. The book won the Czech annual Golden Ribbon prize in 2024, and has also been turned into a successful animated film, with a screenplay by Jana Šrámková, and directed by Filip Pošivač. The 2023 film won the Czech Lion prize and the Contrechamp Jury Award at the Annecy Festival.

AWARDS:
2024 Golden Ribbon Award – Literary Section:
Literature for Children

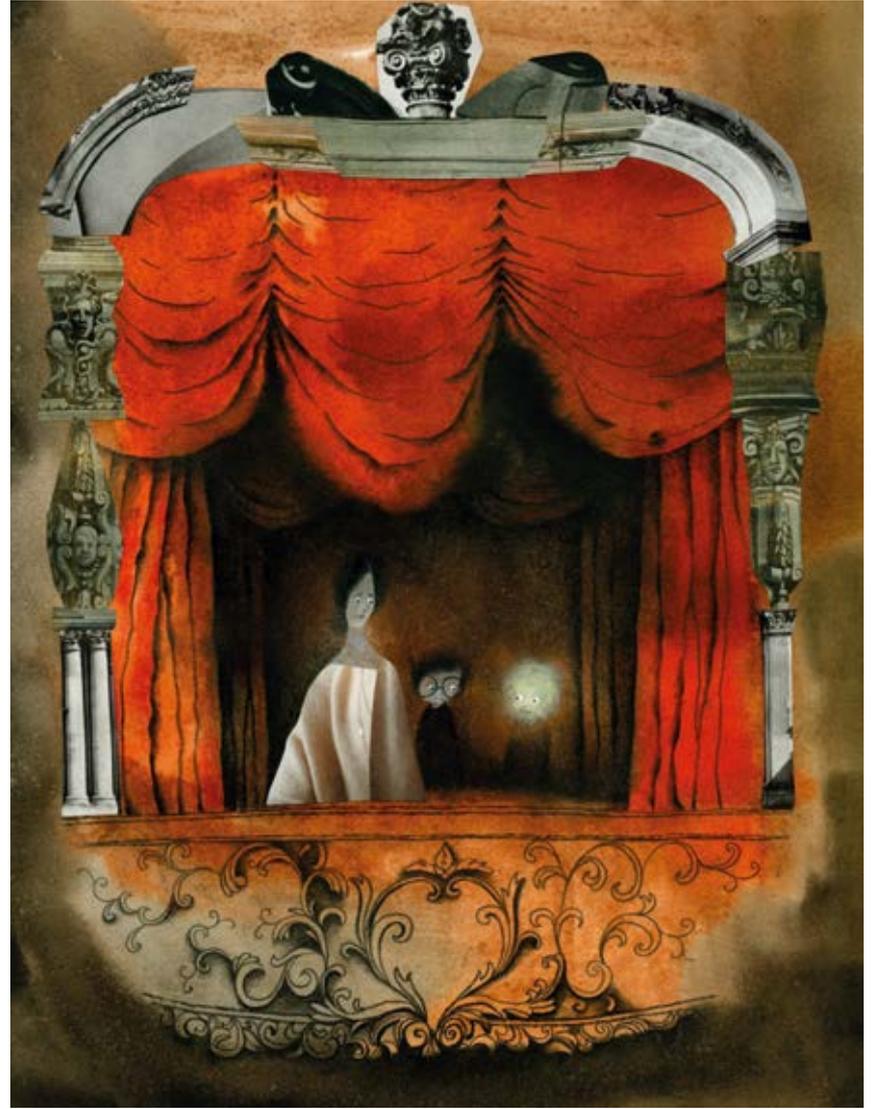
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TONY, SHELLY AND THE MAGIC LIGHT



TONY, SHELLY AND THE MAGIC LIGHT

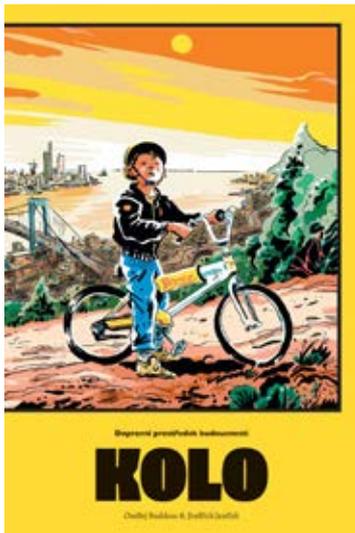
Ondřej Buddeus & Jindřich Janíček

THE BICYCLE: THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE

Janíček's technically detailed but also playful illustrations are a first-class complement to the refreshing, confident text, which systematically explains the phenomenon of the bicycle. The first section of the book, *The Bicycle as a Thing*, shows how the bicycle operates as a means of transport by explaining its origins, its position today, and what it is good for. The second part, *The Bicycle and*

the Body, looks at the physical and emotional effect that riding a bike has on people, and the third and final section places the bicycle within a wider social context under the heading *Landscape, the City and the World*. The descriptive, encyclopaedic passages are interspersed with lighter episodes (such as the classification of bike trips on an ice-cream scale) and unmistakable colour illustrations, which clearly show that the bicycle is, quite simply, a lifestyle.

Age 10+

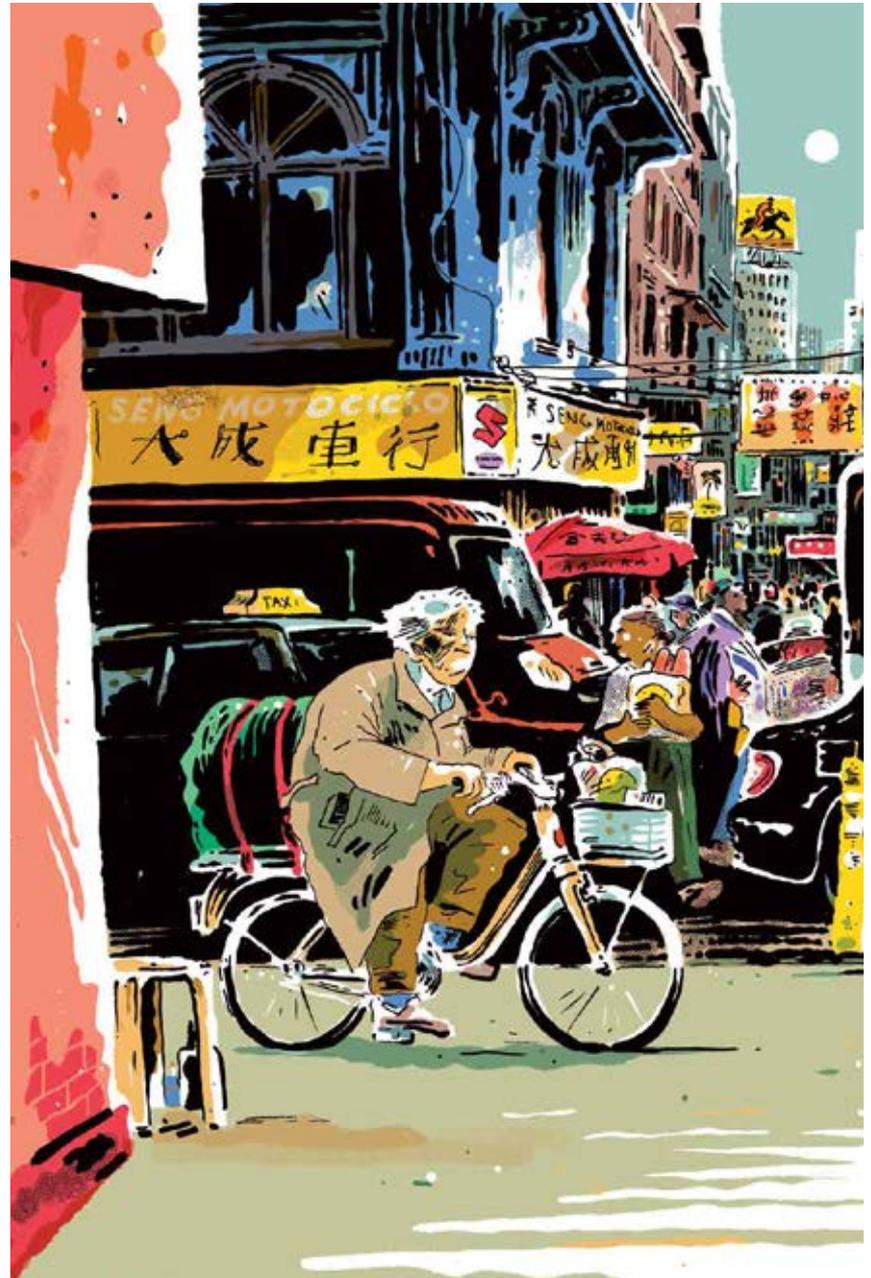


KOLO: DOPRAVNÍ PROSTŘEDEK BUDOUČNOSTI
Illustrated by Jindřich Janíček
Paseka, 2024, 120 pp, 90 x 285 mm

AWARDS:
2025 Golden Ribbon – Literary Section: Non-Fiction
Literature for Children and Young Adults
2024 The Most Beautiful Czech Books – Literature for
Children and Young Adults (3rd place)

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THE BICYCLE: THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE



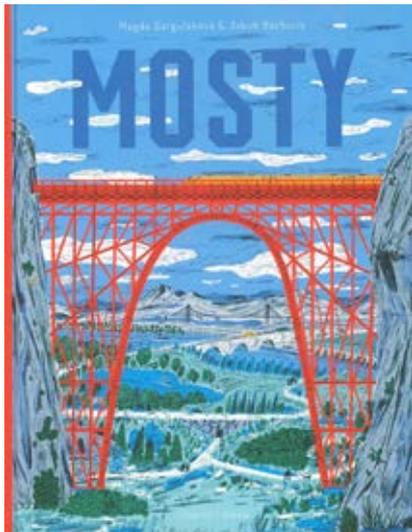
THE BICYCLE: THE TRANSPORT OF THE FUTURE

Magda Garguláková & Jakub Bachorík BRIDGES

Bridges span valleys and speed up transport—and they look good too! So does this ingenious publication, which aims not only to provide information about bridge design, construction and history, but first and foremost to spark the reader's interest in this amazing invention. This striking, large-format book presents bridge records (you'd expect the highest and the longest, but there's also the most photographed bridge, and the bridge built from the largest number of bricks), gives detailed explanations of how bridges are built and maintained, and concludes with the role assigned to them by

various artistic disciplines, and how they have influenced world history. This is clearly explained in words and, particularly, in pictures, which are detailed or schematic, referentially accurate or playfully flowing, and occasionally even presented as comic-strips, as the context requires. There was space in the album for a fun game: the labyrinth in Venice awaits readers who wish to try out their construction skills by building a bridge from spaghetti. Travellers, too, can use the list of bridges to record the ones they have seen. Where will you go next?

Age 9+



AWARDS:
2025 Golden Ribbon – Art Section: Non-Fiction Literature for Children and Young Adults

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MOSTY
Illustrated by Jakub Bachorík
Labyrinth, 2024, 72 pp, 245 x 315 mm

CHOOSING A STRUCTURE

Choice of the structure is a key moment in bridge-building that requires much clear-headed thought. Each structure type has different characteristics and is suitable for different conditions. Some are more wind-resistant, others are ideal for long spans, others look really good. Learning to tell one bridge structure from another is anything but child's play—unless you have us, that is!

OUR MODELS:

- BEAM BRIDGE** (CORRAL)

CHEAPEST SOLUTION

Most common, simplest, oldest bridge structure. Its simple deck is supported at each end by an abutment. It is suitable for bridging shorter distances, although modern materials allow for greater spans.
- TRUSS BRIDGE** (CUBEL)

LIGHTWEIGHT STRUCTURE

A strong, resilient structure that comes in various shapes and sizes. Trusses are connected, stacked and triangular. It can bear heavy loads.
- ARCH BRIDGE** (MAY & SYDNEY)

READS A GREAT STORY

This widespread, attractive, resilient, complex structure comprises one or a succession of arches. Its shape is determined by whether the arch of the deck is at the top, at the bottom or in the middle. Suitable for short and long bridges.

DEPENDABLE CLASSIC

Illustrations include: Mr. BITBY, Mr. SIDNEY, and a cartoon character.

- SUSPENSION BRIDGE** (GOLDEN BRIDGE)

RED-AND-TESTED STRUCTURE

Structure suitable for large spans. The weight of the deck is borne by two main suspension cables, each anchored to a bank by a tower. Steel ropes to hold the deck are lowered from support cables. Suitable for overcoming wide obstacles, and wherever space for support pillars is limited.
- CABLE-STAYED BRIDGE** (MELBOURNE)

MODERN CABLE ARRANGEMENTS

The youngest but most widespread bridge type today has at least one pylon from which the ropes carrying the deck are routed. The arrangement of supporting ropes varies. Suitable for longer and shorter spans.
- CANTILEVER BRIDGE** (FOR LONG DISTANCES)

TOUGH

Simple, reliable bridge. Cantilevers are support structures that project horizontally into space, so helping bear the deck's weight. The bridge usually comprises three fields, with the two outermost anchored to the banks and the ends (freely extending towards each other) carrying the central field.
- MOVABLE BRIDGE** (CANTON)

GOOD TO LOOK AT

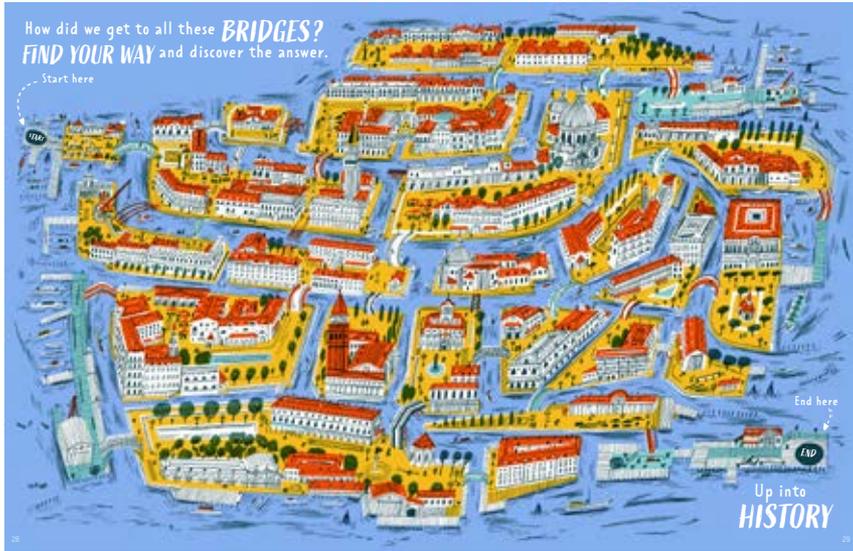
Useful, widespread, popular bridge that comes in many types. A part of the bridge or its whole moves to clear the way for transportation. Suitable for shorter and longer spans.

Types shown: swing, bascule, retractable.
- HYBRID BRIDGE** (WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS)

VERSATILE

Bridge types can be variously combined. If this is your choice, consultation with an expert is necessary.

FREE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION office@cross.bond



BRIDGES

BRIDGES

LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

Over the centuries, many bridges have come to grief. Reasons for their collapse include structural imperfection, human error and ignorance, and acts of nature. These bridges fall and are destroyed, in a past and present phenomenon. Although such failures bring a huge expenditure, it teaches engineers and designers invaluable lessons that bring gradual progress.

UNDERESTIMATING THE WIND

1940 Tacoma Narrows Bridge
Tacoma, USA
This bridge collapsed four months after it was opened, due to wind and flaws in its aerodynamic design. The bridge's solid sides didn't allow the wind to pass over the deck, causing it to catch the wind and sway till it was brought down. Fortunately, no one was killed in the collapse.

NEGLECTED MAINTENANCE

1927 Eitel-bashi Bridge
Istanbul, Turkey
This bridge between two villages had long been abandoned. Neither side wanted to repair it. During a flood, it collapsed. 1000 lives were lost in the water below.

BAD WEATHER

1940 Sunshine Skyway Bridge
St. Petersburg, USA
Being a storm, a huge freighter collided with a support pier of the bridge, killing 25 people whose cars fell from the damaged structure. The pier was inadequately protected against the impact. A modern bridge now stands in place of the original.

POOR CONSTRUCTION

1907 and 1914 Quebec Bridge
Quebec, Canada
This bridge collapsed twice while under construction. The first collapse, in which 75 workers died, was due to a gross flaw in the design. The second occurred when the central section of the bridge disappeared due to faulty masonry.

OVERLOAD

1927 Sterling Bridge
Shrewsbury, England
English and Scottish armies clashed on this bridge during the First War of Scottish Independence. The bridge collapsed under their collective weight.

ITS OWN WEIGHT

1927
This was the weight of all vehicles, pedestrians and for cars crossing at any one time. For safety, it should withstand more than 7 months.

LOAD

It must take the weight of all vehicles, pedestrians and for cars crossing at any one time. For safety, it should withstand more than 7 months.

NATURAL ELEMENTS

It must be resistant to gales, flooding and thermal war. Natural elements are highly diverse and geographically distinct in some parts of the world. Bridges must survive earthquakes, in others extreme fluctuations in temperature.

BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED ...

- fire
- people flocking to one side of the bridge
- being struck by a ship, train, car, plane etc.
- a group of unexpected animals
- a vehicle pile-up
- a demonstration or marathon with many participants
- other unusual situations

The world is FILLED with BRIDGES

STATISTICS BOY

"CITY OF BRIDGES" TITLE
Chicago, USA

BRIDGES PRIDE TO BE USED ON A BRIDGE:
Venice, Italy

MOST PHOTOGRAPHED BRIDGE:
New York, USA

LONGEST BRIDGE:
London, UK

CITIES & BRIDGES **

Venice	340
Philadelphia	420
Amsterdam	490
New York	520
Hamburg	540
London	580
Paris	600
Rome	650
London	670
Stockholm	700
Nagasaki	700
Thames	700

RIVERS & BRIDGES **

Thames	100
Seine	100
St Lawrence	100

AND THE "MOST" BRIDGES

39

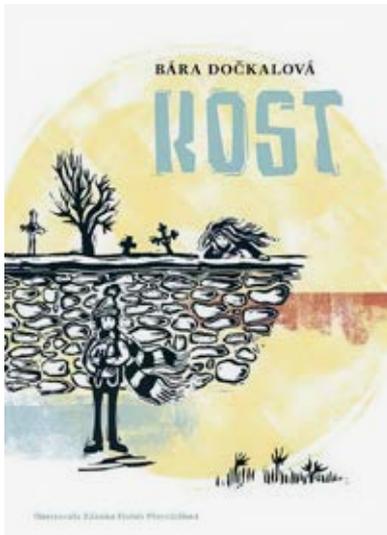
Bára Dočkalová & Zdenka Holub Převrátilová BONE

41

Out of curiosity, ten-year-old Matěj steals a bone from the open family vault at his great-uncle's funeral and takes it home. What initially seemed like a great way of flabbergasting his classmates quickly turns into an insoluble problem, and Matěj now has one goal: to return his great-grandfather's bone to where it belongs. But things do not go smoothly, leading to the start of an unexpected adventure. In the Easter holidays, Matěj doesn't go skiing with his sister, but visits a distant branch of the family whom he

barely knows. There he meets the brave and mysterious girl Róza and his peers in his dad's cousin's family. He learns about complex family relationships and comes to see his own family's story from a perspective different to the one he has grown up with. This is a thrilling read up to the very last page; the ending is conciliatory, yet it also indicates that the path is long when your goals are big. The novel sensitively raises questions of death and deference, respect and friendship. Zdenka Holub Převrátilová's pared-back illustrations are created from a series of coloured linocuts that strikingly reproduce the story's atmosphere and inventively develop some plot motifs.

Age 10+

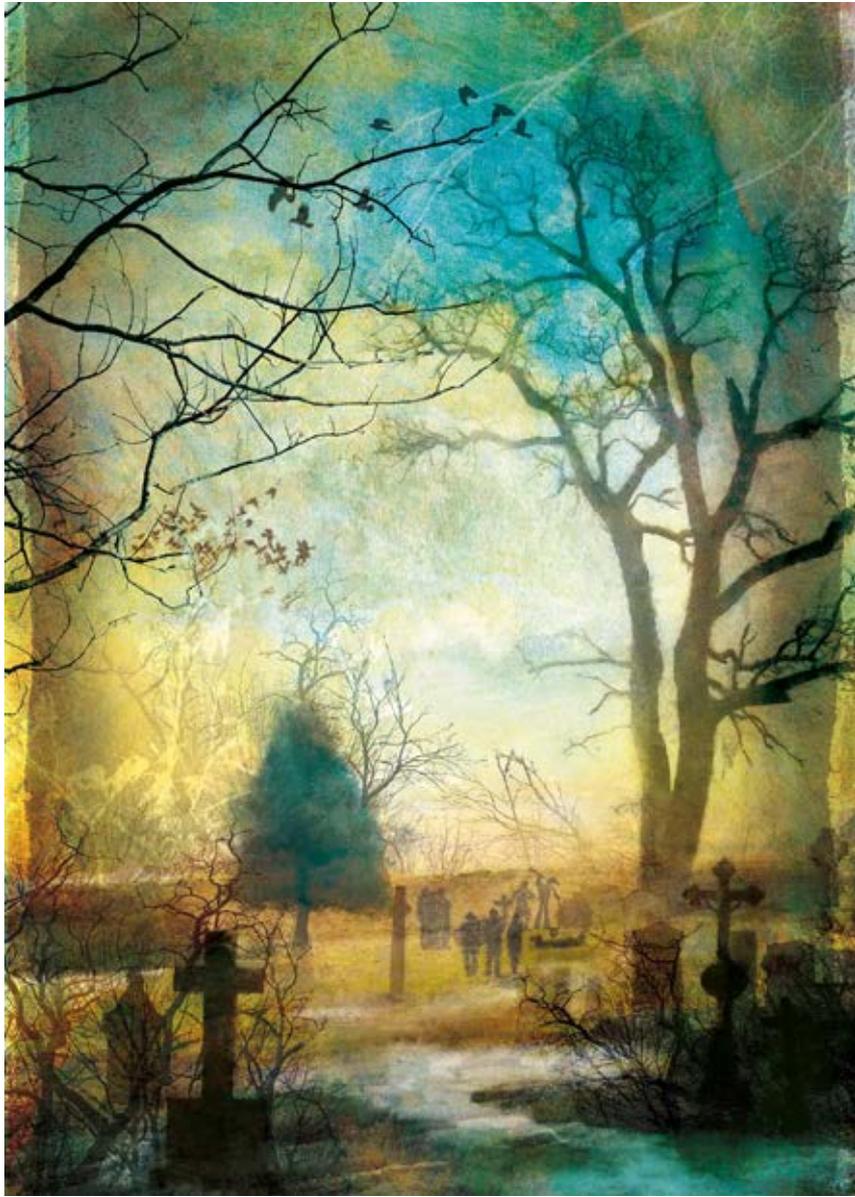


KOST
Illustrated by Zdenka Holub Převrátilová
Labyrinth, 2024, 232 pp, 173 × 240 mm

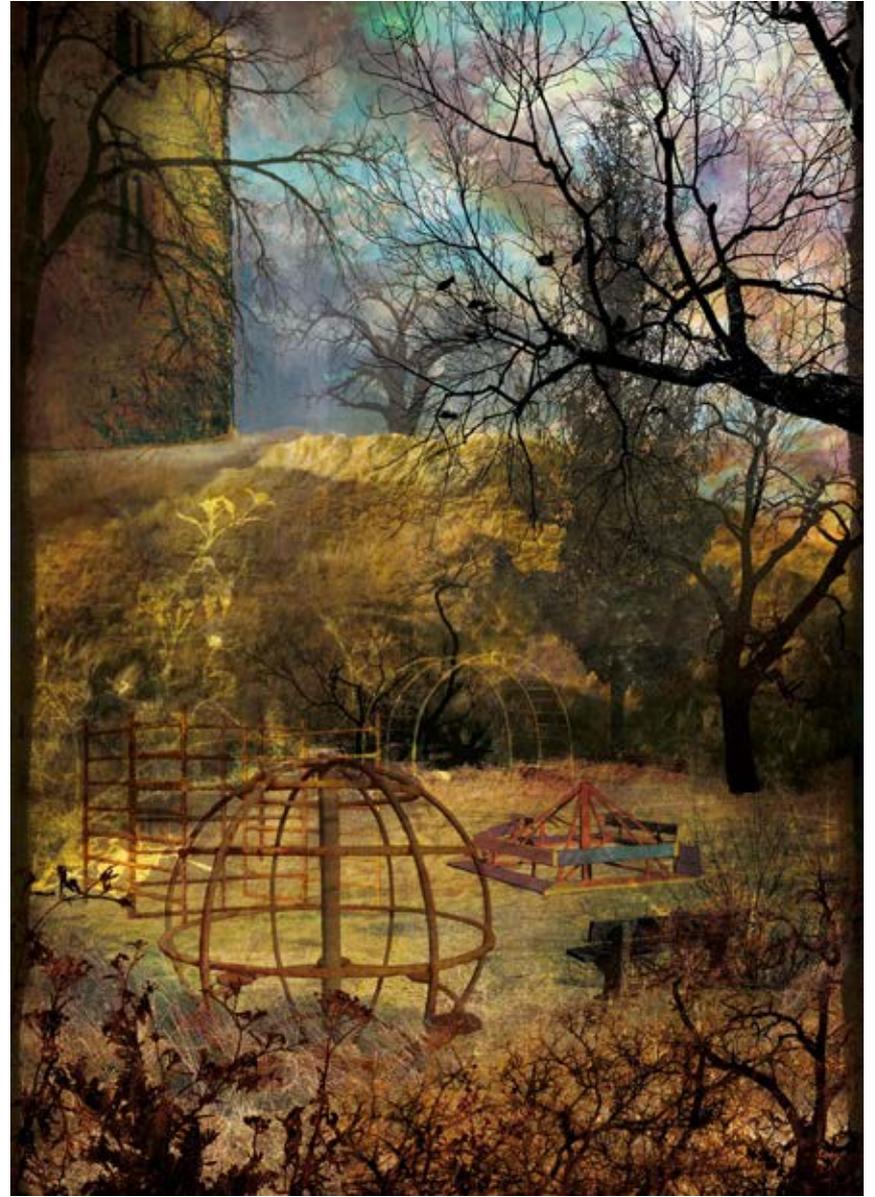
AWARDS:
2025 Magnesia Litera Award – For Children and Youth

RIGHTS:
Labyrinth publishers
Petra Nováková
petra@labyrinth.net
www.labyrinth.net





BONE



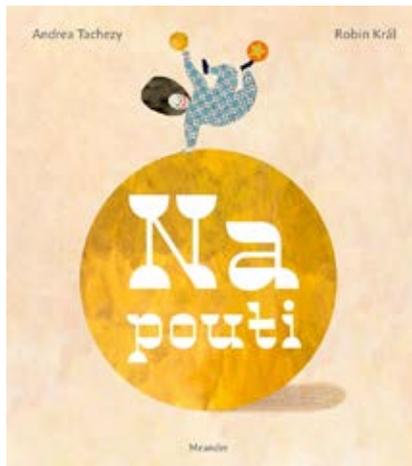
BONE

Robin Král & Andrea Tachezy AT THE FAIR

A concertina board-book that encourages interactive creativity: the front side presents poems and colourful motifs of fairground attractions, while the inside, reverse page hides black-and-white ink drawings to be coloured in. Andrea Tachezy's elaborately creative illustrations narratively expand Robin Král's rhyming quatrains—the fragile, interwoven collages and drawings in pastel colours immediately transport us to the picturesque world of the country fair. Here quirky, surreal characters ride on the merry-go-round and run into the haunted castle or the

circus ring of clowns, acrobats and exotic animals. Sweet treats, such as ice-cream from a trolley, giant candy-floss or gingerbread hearts, are also available at the fairground. Detailed, whole-page illustrations depict this whirl as an autonomous world. The book resembles one long day full of experiences, starting in the morning and going on until the evening. The day of celebration passes more quickly than people would like and both adults and children may ask: did it really happen? Was it a dream?

Age 5+



NA POUTI
Illustrated by Andrea Tachezy
Meander, 2024, 60 pp, 260 x 230 mm

RIGHTS:
Meandr publishers
Ivana Pecháčková
nakladatelstvi@meander.cz
www.meander.cz





Těch srážek, zataček a klíčků!
Zrychlit a prudce zpomalit!
Všichni si vlezli do autíček
za volanty a pedály.

AT THE FAIR



„Dějte nám osm diablek.“
„Maminko, já bych chtěla taky!
Podívej, co tu stíli holec
na špejle a pak na panáky.“

„Vystřelím rži, tuhle velkou,
mřím už jako vojnín!
Já budu slavnou ostrostřelkou.
Anebo ostrostřelkyní?“

AT THE FAIR



A he! Strašidelný zámek,
kostlivec a s ním bílá paní.
Tak trochu něco pro leknutí
a trochu něco pro zasmání.

Teď rychle schovat celou hlavu,
ramena, kolena i paty
za oblak čechraného cukru,
hluboko do cukrové vaty!

Alžběta Dvořáková & Magdalena Rutová ŽAKO AND STOPOTVORNÁ

The vixen Stopotvorná leaves behind russet tracks, but which she expertly brushes away with her bushy tail, while the parrot Žako is eventually able to speak on behalf of all the human and animal characters in this thrilling tale. The chance encounter of a vixen and a parrot occurs in the home of the vet who rescued them—and who is rewarded with a new friendship with a kind waitress. Without giving away all the details of their adventures, we can disclose that they travel on a water lily to a place teeming with rich flora

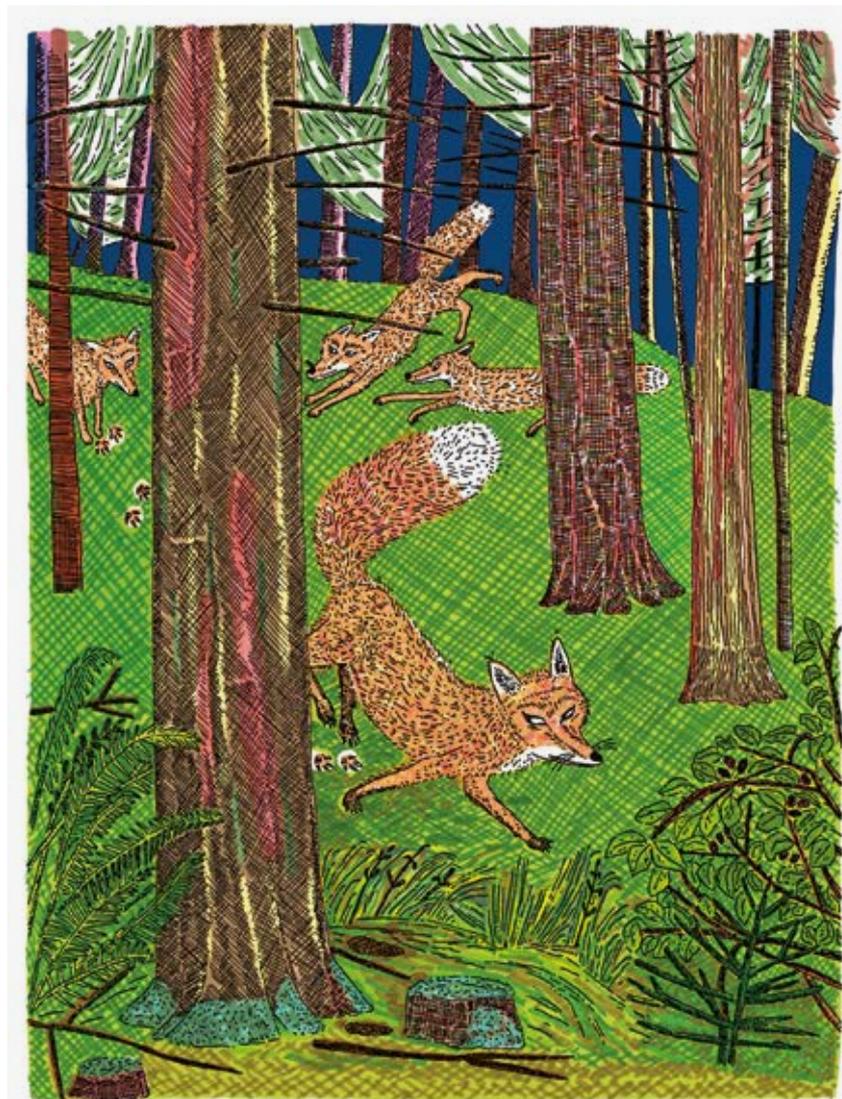
and fauna, where the Mighty Tree grows, whose seeds accentuate certain characteristics for better or for worse. The other animal protagonists include a pack of wolves, a capybara, and a prairie dog. One of the main roles, though, is played by the vixen's lost sister, Matylda, who Stopotvorná has a competition with to see who has the better sense of smell. There are full-page illustrations, surprisingly drawn in brightly coloured markers with details in brilliant orange, which also appear on the distinctive front cover.

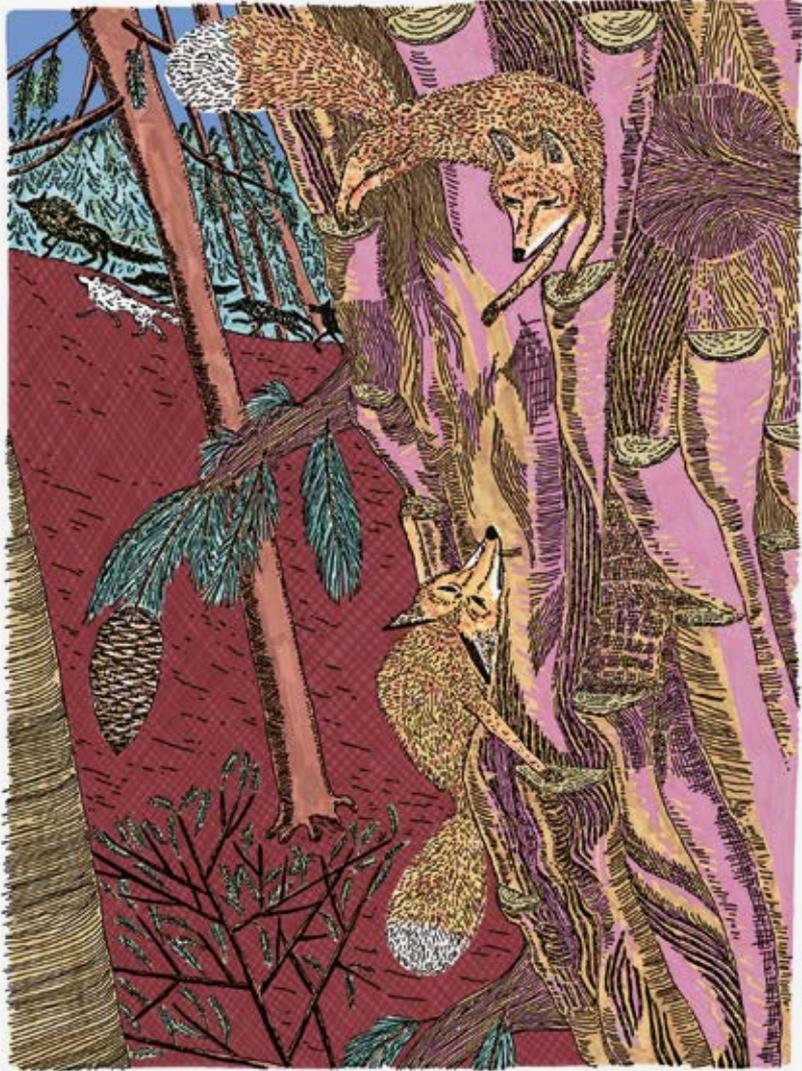
Age 6+



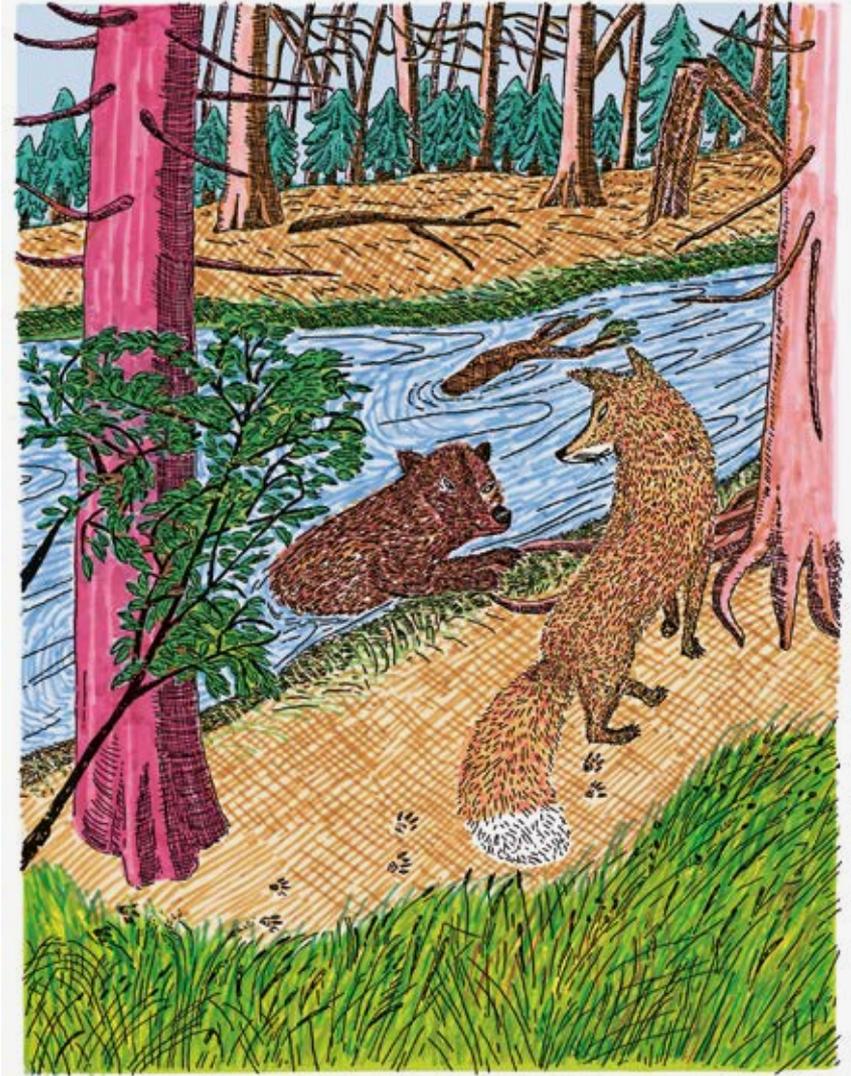
ŽAKO A STOPOTVORNÁ
Illustrated by Magdalena Rutová
Baobab, 2024, 120 pp, 170 × 240 mm

RIGHTS:
Baobab publishers
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baobabbooks@gmail.com
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ZAKO AND STOPOTVORNA



ZAKO AND STOPOTVORNA

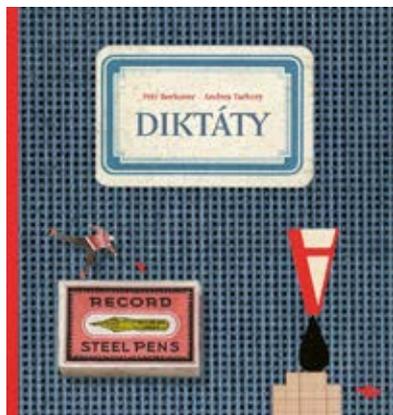
Petr Borkovec & Andrea Tachezy DICTATIONS

53

Inspiration for the poetry collection *Dictations* was drawn from two sources: artist Andrea Tachezy created assemblages of miscellaneous found items, such as shards and metal fragments, dry leaves, boxes or stones, and added drawings to complete and enhance them. Poet Petr Borkovec's attention was caught by an exercise book of dictations and spelling exercises belonging to an eight-year-old schoolchild from Polana in Poland, not far from the Ukrainian border, which is actually something he personally found in the house he used to live in. He was fascinated by the unexpected confrontation of distant, originally entirely unconnected things and words in both the images and the exercise

book. His imagination was unleashed by visual and sound sensations, inviting experimentation and resulting in new avant-garde, even Dadaist, wordplay. Playful, mischievous, short and longer poems, rhymed or prose, contain allusions to tricky sentences in school grammar lessons and Astrid Lindgren's *The Six Bullerby Children* series. All the poems have subtle links to a total of twenty three-dimensional collages, which are separately captioned to explain how the images were created. The book's layout resembles a school exercise book—there are handwriting exercises inside the front cover and a piece of blue blotting paper, bearing a poem called Blotting Paper, has been inserted.

Age 11+



DIKTÁTY
Illustrated by Andrea Tachezy
Běžiliska, 2025, 54 pp, 230 × 230 mm

RIGHTS:
Běžiliska publishers
info@beziliska.cz
www.beziliska.cz

52

PRVNÍ JARNÍ DEN

Slepýši vylézali z hlíny,
hlémýždům sbíhaly se sliny,
kdo ležel ve dne, nemusel být líný

(možná byl přes noc v těžké práci:
snad hliďač, lékař, stevard v spacích
vagonech nebo paparazzi!)

a do jezírka s sedemodřím kamenem
svítlo první jarní slunce – ne, že ne!

Jenomže, jako kdyby práskl bíč,
zařoukal vítr – světlo bylo pryč!
Hlémýždě přešla chuť, slepýši syč-

eli, že „slunce se zbláznilo,
vždyť jste to viděli –
proměnilo se v otačenou miskul!“

Vtom zase, jako kdyby práskl bíč,
zařoukal vítr – mraky byly pryč!
A do jezírka tak jakoby nic
zasvítlo slunce – stál jsem blůžo

a viděl slepýše, jak vylézají z hlíny,
i to, že šnekům sbíhají se sliny,
a to, že kvete první křen,
růžový, modrý, žlutý, červený.

Byl zkrátka první jarní den,
den-blázen, ztřeštěný a praštěný.

Ilustrace: Andrea Tachezy, foto: Petr Borkovec, design: Petr Borkovec, ilustrace: Andrea Tachezy, 1. vydání 2025, nakladatelství Běžiliska



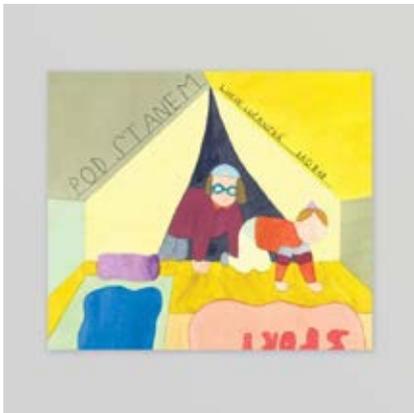
Lucie Lučanská IN THE TENT

57

In this book, written and illustrated by Lucie Lučanská, a night spent in a tent in the garden is transformed into a pilgrimage of many days to a new, unknown country, where two siblings decide to pitch their tent before taking cover from the wind. As darkness falls, the world changes and brings various challenges, fears and misgivings: is that a hedgehog rustling outside, or are the “skeletons and witches who eat children” sharpening their teeth at the unfortunate twosome? The subtly poetic narrative, which won the 2023

Serpa International Award for Picture Books, lays bare the joys and sorrows of wild sleeping. Appropriate visual creativity and a font that resembles a child’s handwriting bolster the child’s perspective. Panoramic shots of the landscape at various points during the night and coming morning are composed of attractively colourful but indistinct scenes, plus brief moments and observations that will surely remind many parents of their own adventures in nature.

Age 7+



POD STANEM
Illustrated by Lucie Lučanská
Baobab, 2025, 48 pp, 209 × 180 mm

RIGHTS SOLD: France (éditions MeMo),
Korea (Hello, Robin), Portugal (Planeta Tangerina)

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IN THE TENT



IN THE TENT

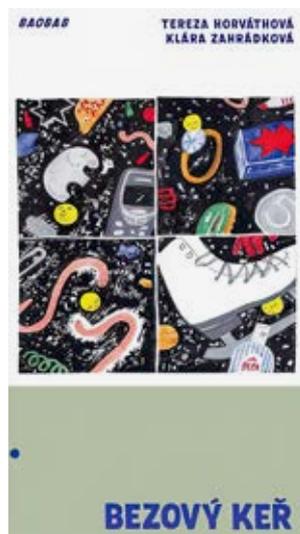
Tereza Horváthová & Klára Zahrádková THE ELDERBERRY BUSH

61

This charming little book is full of surprises: it has the unusually small format of a pocket diary, and the reader soon finds that it is a double book: the story can be read from both ends, which meet in the middle on a folded, double-sided page with a panoramic illustration. One part of the story tells the tale of an elderberry seed that dropped from the beak of a white fledgling bird, while the other part depicts the adventures of the bird itself. The narrative gently portrays the passage of time and the cycle of life,

encourages readers to be observant, and highlights the role of random chance in our world. The text is brief: no more than four lines of simple sentences in capital letters are concentrated on the lower half of the page. The book is characterised by a stylistic purity, which is emphasised by the composition, colour and technique of Klára Zahrádková's illustrations. The images cleverly underpin the story's details; readers big and small will love coming back to this book again and again.

Age 7+



BEZOVÝ KEŘ
Illustrated by Klára Zahrádková
Baobab, 2025, 80 pp, 88 x 160 mm

RIGHTS:
Baobab publishers
Barbora Čermáková
baobabooks@gmail.com
www.baobab-books.net/en



**NAJEDNOU SE ODNĚKUD VYNOŘIL
STRAŠLIVÝ NETVOR, NEPOZOROVANĚ SE
PŘIPLÍŽIL A POPADL PTÁČÁTKO DO ZUBŮ.
TO ZAČALO HLASITĚ NAŘÍKAT.**



**ČASTO TAKÉ POZOROVAL OBLOHU,
JAKO BY NA NĚCO ČEKAL. JEDNOHO
DNE BYLO OKNO OTEVŘENÉ. FRNK!**

THE ELDERBERRY BUSH



THE ELDERBERRY BUSH

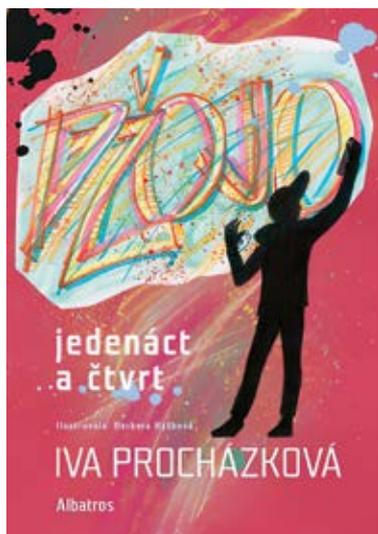
**NĚKOLIK MĚSÍCŮ ŽILO NALEPENÉ NA
STAROU ŽEHLIČKU, PAK SE PŘICHYTILO
NA ZREZLÝ PRSTÝNEK A NAKONEC MU
DĚLALY SPOLEČNOST DVĚ ŽÍŽALY.**

Iva Procházková & Barbora Kyšková JOYO, ELEVEN AND A QUARTER

The unusual title of this novel by the respected author Iva Procházková refers to the hero. His name is Joyo, which means joy in Esperanto. Knowledge of this constructed international language brought Džojó's parents together, and the occasional Esperanto word is uttered in their day-to-day family communication. Primarily, however, the name reflects Joyo's happy nature: the boy is good at both art and sports, he is self-confident, independent and a great friend.

Eleven and a quarter is Joyo's age when he falls in love for the first time and starts to see himself through new eyes. A contemporary story, told in authentic, colloquial language for modern adolescents, with a broad range of themes, it aptly depicts the school environment and both peer and intergenerational relationships. The book raises the issues of migration and multilingualism, ageing and death, but also gives an insight into various professions, such as painting or acting. The focal point of this meaty story, however, is the daily lives of adolescents, an intrinsic part of which is discovering new, intensive experiences and challenges in the form of ever-increasing responsibility for your own life.

Age 11+



RIGHTS SOLD:
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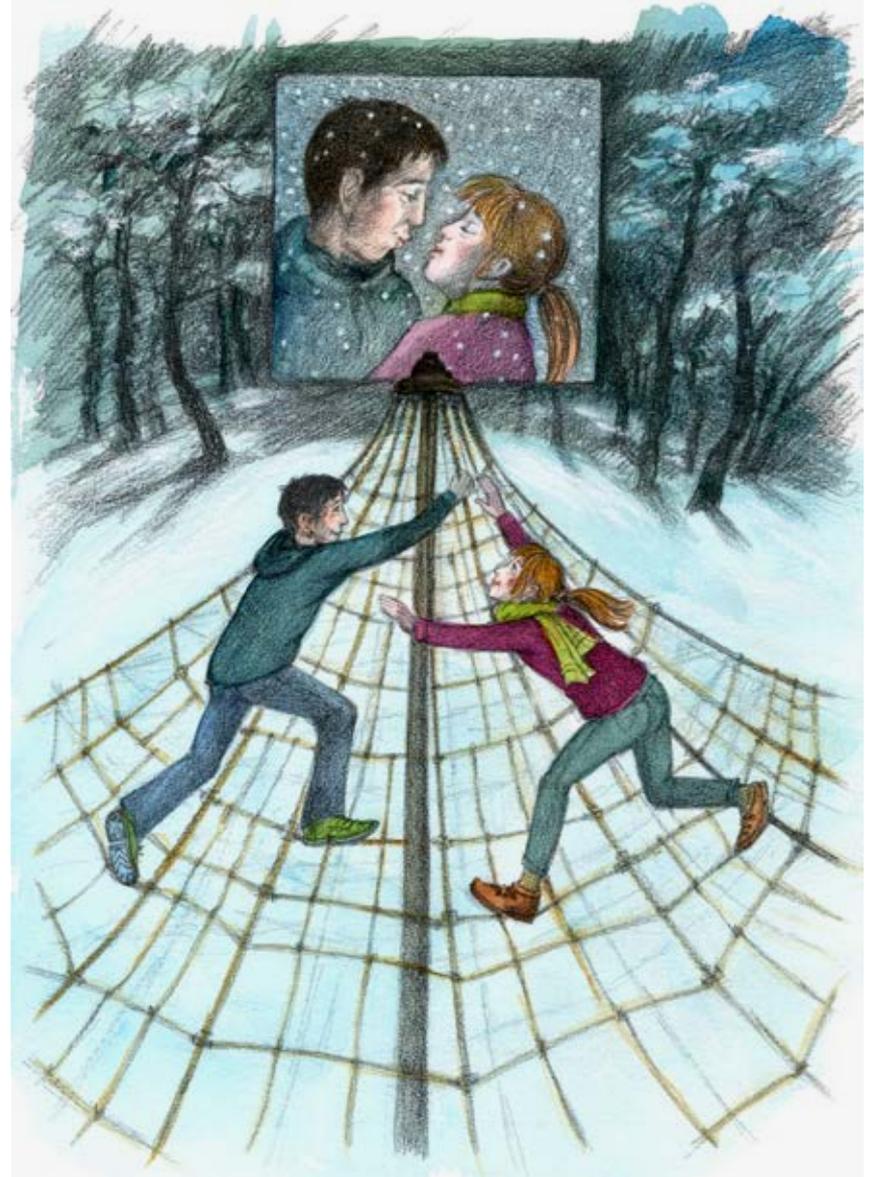
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Ueberreuter Verlag
Meri Melkonyan
meri.melkonyan@ueberreuter.de
www.ueberreuter.de

DŽOJO, JEDENÁC A ČTVRT
Illustrated by Barbora Kyšková
Albatros, 2025, 224 pp, 145 × 205 mm





JOYO, ELEVEN AND A QUARTER



JOYO, ELEVEN AND A QUARTER

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)

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).

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

CONTACT PERSON:
Eliška Boumová, Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
eliska.boumova@mk.gov.cz
+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, accommodation, promotion, interpreting and moderation costs.

Authors can request support for appearance fees and travel expenses. 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)

- The author will be reimbursed 100% of the granted support after the event on the basis of the final report and copies of travel documents specified.

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 and documentation.

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR 2026 AND 2027:

- 31st May 2026 (for the period from 1st September 2026 to 15th December 2026)
- 31st October 2026 (for the period from 1st January 2027 to 31st August 2027)

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 a 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 awarded 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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Kounicova 65a
601 87 Brno
Czech Republic

www.mzk.cz
mzk@mzk.cz



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