



# Polish Books

for Children & Young Adults

## 2018



Edited by Anna Czartoryska-Sziler

Texts translated by David French

English texts edited by Sean Gasper Bye

The catalogue was designed by Joanna Gębal

More information on Polish literature is available at [www.bookinstitute.pl](http://www.bookinstitute.pl)

# **Polish Books**

**for Children & Young Adults**

## **2018**

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# Dear Readers,

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once said “You cannot enslave your readers, you have to enchant them”. Polish literature for children and young people is enchanting more and more readers all over the world. The popularity of Aleksandra and Daniel Mizieliński's *Maps* and Piotr Socha's *Bees* testifies to the remarkable success that Polish authors are achieving abroad. Both of these books have been translated into more than a dozen languages and their sales run into millions of copies. Still, these titles in no way exhaust the rich seam of Polish literature for children and young people.

In this catalogue we present thirty titles – including individual books and entire series – that we have divided into four age groups: 0+, 5+, 9+ and 13+. In each of these categories Polish authors offer a raft of attractive titles to young readers all over the world.

To the parents of very young children we suggest, for example, a gorgeously illustrated series of board books, which from the first months of life will catch the attention of their little ones and help them to learn about the world. Beyond that, in the first category we have included titles that will not only be wonderful bedtime stories, but also form the habit of reading among children. They include stories that help children become comfortable with their emotional life and teach them respect for others. We're certain that the books for very young readers presented in this category will become good companions that they won't want to put down.

In the 5+ category we've showcased books that children will want to read independently or with only a little help from adults. These are books that deal with various aspects of children's lives at the nursery and reception stage: play, interactions with peers, relationships with parents and siblings. They also include books that teach children to understand the situations of people with various kinds of disabilities. They also include humorous titles that will amuse both children and their parents.

For older children we offer books dealing with serious issues. They include titles drawing both on still-painful stories from the Second World War and contemporary armed conflicts. These books prove that good may prevail even amid the dangers of war and terror. In this category we also present two series of adventure books that maintain suspense and hold the attention of young readers from beginning to end. For this age group we also showcase Polish motifs – books that drawn on Slavic legends, folklore and aristocratic traditions.

In the 13+ category we offer books that may interest readers entering adolescence and those on the threshold of adulthood. They include, on the one hand, titles showing the serious problems that contemporary teenagers have to face: addiction, incurable diseases and family and emotional problems. On the other hand, there's also an excellent adventure series here.

In each of the categories we have mentioned you'll find examples of various genres of literature, starting with classic fairy tales and fables, through short stories and novels, and ending with comics and graphic novels. Each of the books or series discussed have gained critical acclaim and popularity among readers themselves. We've also included in the catalogue titles from the canon of classic Polish children's literature, though they were published many decades ago, have lost none of their relevance.

We believe all the books presented in the catalogue are – in the words of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry – capable of enchanting every young reader, regardless of where they live, since the brilliant illustrations, the wisdom of their messages and the wealth of meanings are universal.

*Dariusz Jaworski, Director of the Book Institute  
Professor Krzysztof Koehler, Deputy Director of the Book Institute*

# 0+

**One, Two, Three (series)**

**Look in the Sky (series)**

**Chimney Sweep, Baker**

**Figures**

**Series about Piglet**

**Koala Bear**

**Says Don't You Dare**

**Mr Roly-Poly (series)**

**The Moods of Hippolytus Kabel**





# One, Two, Three (series)

ONE, TWO, THREE is a series of board books for the youngest children, which grows along with the child. It has won an award in a competition run by the Book Institute and the Polish Section of IBBY. *ONE, Two, Three – We Can See* is the first book in the series, for children a few months old that trains and develops the sense of sight. Rather than text, the author has chosen images designed to catch babies' eye and attention. It shows them highly contrasting black, white, yellow and red illustrations which can be seen more clearly. Little children love looking at faces, so here even a banana and dog's bone smile at them. *One, TWO, Three – We Can Hear* trains and develops babies' hearing. It leads the babies into a world of onomatopoeic words. Babies start to listen, then babble, until they finally create their own words. *One, Two, THREE – We Can Talk* trains and develops babies' speech. It introduces babies to basic expressions and the funny rhymes makes them quick to remember.



## **DISTINCTION**

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE BOOK INSTITUTE  
AND THE POLISH SECTION OF IBBY



## **RAZ, DWA, TRZY (SERIES)**

Joanna Bartosik

Wydawnictwo Widnokrąg

Piaseczno 2016

160 x 160, 20 pages

ISBN 978-83-942952-7-1 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Widnokrąg

k.wegierek@wydawnictwo-widnokrąg.pl



**Joanna Bartosik** (1990) – is an author and illustrator of children's books, and a PhD student at the Faculty of Graphic Design and Visual Communication at the Artistic University in Poznań. She received a graphic nomination in the competition of the Polish Section of IBBY in 2016 for her picture book *One, TWO, Three – We Can Hear*. The third part of the series – the book *One, Two, THREE – We Can Talk* received a nomination for the Ferdinand and the Splendid Award for the Best Polish Children's Book of 2016. The entire series was given an award in the 9th Halina Skrobiszewska Children's Literature Competition and was added to the List of Treasures of the Museum of Children's Books.



*The series of three books (...) is a real gift for parents who have a one-year-old child and want to communicate with it somehow. The sounds of the surrounding world are pictured here in a very simple and at the same time astonishingly ingenious way.*

Łukasz Dębski, co-creator of the Children's Literature Festival

# Look in the Sky (series)

*Look in the sky* is a series of three books recommended respectively for children aged 0-1, 1-2 and 2-3. Each of them has been designed to meet a child's developmental needs at a given age. The books' common theme is the sky, a main element of the reality around us, which every child can observe since they were a baby. The protagonists of the books are obvious features of our world like the sun and moon, birds and aeroplanes, as well as the more distant ones, like planets and rockets, that stimulate the imagination. From book to book, a greater number of subjects are presented and the graphic techniques become more sophisticated. The project received the main award in the first edition of the Trzy/Mam/Książki competition organised by the Book Institute.

**Joanna Gębał** – graphic designer, illustrator. Her focuses are on artwork for print media, book illustrations and applied graphics. A graduate of the Faculty of Graphic Design at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. She's taken part in numerous illustration and graphics exhibitions, in places such as Warsaw, Poznań, Katowice, Milwaukee, Kiev and Riga.



## AWARD

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE BOOK INSTITUTE  
AND THE POLISH SECTION OF IBBY

## POPATRZ W NIEBO (SERIES)

**Joanna Gębał**  
**Monika Zborowska**

Wydawnictwo Muchomor  
Warszawa 2017

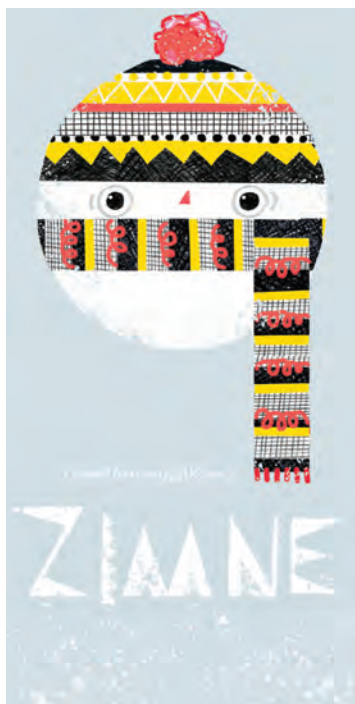
170 x 170, 30 pages

ISBN 978-83-65650-01-6 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Joanna Gębał, Monika Zborowska,  
Wydawnictwo Muchomor  
[askowronska@muchomor.pl](mailto:askowronska@muchomor.pl)

**Monika Zborowska** – graphic designer and illustrator. In 2011 she graduated with distinction from the Faculty of Graphic Design at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, with a joint major in newspaper and magazine design and graphic techniques. As part of the Erasmus grant programme she studied at universities in Surabaya, Indonesia and Milan, Italy.



*As a new mum I recommend to young parents the series Look in the Sky by Joanna Gębal and Monika Zborowska. It's a compelling and original book on the Polish publishing scene, designed to meet the needs of children moving through the developmental stages.*

Anna Kaszuba-Dębska, [liberalculture.org](http://liberalculture.org)

*The work the jury has selected is a coherent, stylistically linked series of books, an atmosphere referring to a children's lullaby. It is characterised by a harmonious, colourfully tasteful artwork and its well thought-out concept.*

From the verdict of the Jury of the Trzy/Mam/Książki Competition



# Chimney Sweep, Baker

A disarmingly simple and witty forward-and-backward board book about two hard-working brothers. One dresses in black, the other in white. One works during the day, the other at night. They're two brothers: a chimney sweep and a baker. How else do they differ and how are they alike? You'll learn about them in funny black-white-and-red illustrations and pithy rhyming text that elegantly uses the onomatopoeic words so beloved by young children.

**Dominika Czerniak-Chojnacka** (1990) – graphic designer, graduate in graphic design from the University of the Arts in Poznań, PhD from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, a student of ethnology. The winner of an award from the Minister of National Culture and Heritage in 2013.



## BOLOGNA PRIZE

FOR THE BEST CHILDREN'S PUBLISHER  
OF THE YEAR 2018 IN EUROPE

### KOMINIARZ PIEKARZ

**Dominika Czerniak-Chojnacka**

Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry

Warszawa 2017

115 x 220, 54 pages

ISBN 978-83-63696-81-8

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry

[jadzia@wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl](mailto:jadzia@wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl)

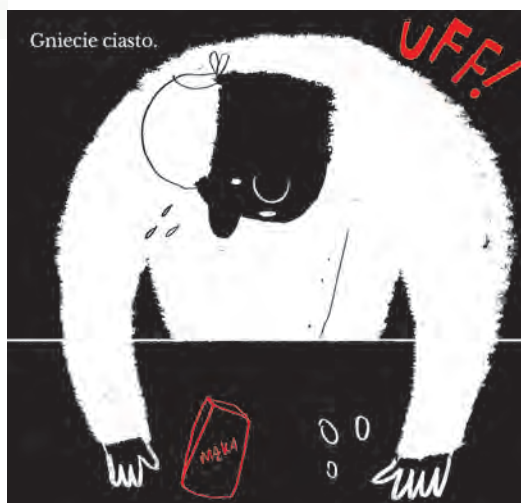
*It doesn't matter how children hold it. This book will never be "upside down" or "back to front". It's always the right way up!*

[wilcelektury.blogspot.com](http://wilcelektury.blogspot.com)



*The forward-and-backward board book for children ages 2-4 presents the brothers' jobs: chimney sweeping and a baking. It's divided into "day" (the chimney sweep) and "night" (the baker), a white background with black drawings (the chimney sweep) and black background with white drawings (the baker). An extra colour – red – enlivens the avantgarde illustrations.*

Anna Maria Czernow, President of the Polish Polish Section of IBBY

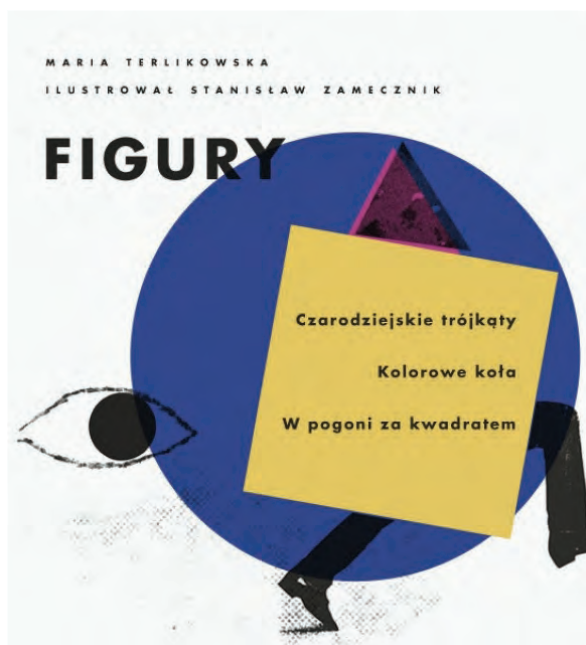




# Figures

*Magical Triangles*, *Colourful Wheels* and *Chasing a Square* – written by Maria Terlikowska and illustrated and designed by Stanisław Zamecznik – are some of the most outstanding examples of educational books for children. Published for the first time over five decades ago, they've lost none of the universality or artistic impact. Up until now each has been published separately. Without interfering with the individual character of the books, the publisher Warstwy have brought them back under the collective title of *Figures*. These books are modern not only because of the relevance of one of the oldest sciences – geometry – they are also an excellent example of a creative and innovative meeting of two authors who've managed in a remarkable way to show the natural presence of figures and shapes in the world around us and give a taste of the power of perception. Constructed here with the help of words and images, a world of just three shapes becomes an invitation to a wonderful adventure of the imagination.

**Maria Terlikowska** (1920-1990) – children's author, poet, journalist, animated film screenwriter and author of radio plays and television programmes. She popularised knowledge among children – particularly of natural history and mathematics – and also wrote the lyrics for children's songs.



## CLASSIC

OF POLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### FIGURY

**Maria Terlikowska**  
**Stanisław Zamecznik**

Wydawnictwo Warstwy  
Wrocław 2016  
205 x 184, 72 pages  
ISBN 978-83-65502-03-2

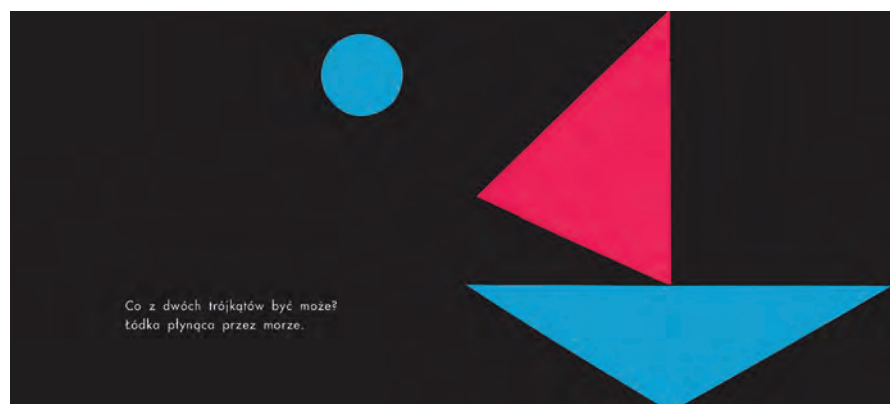
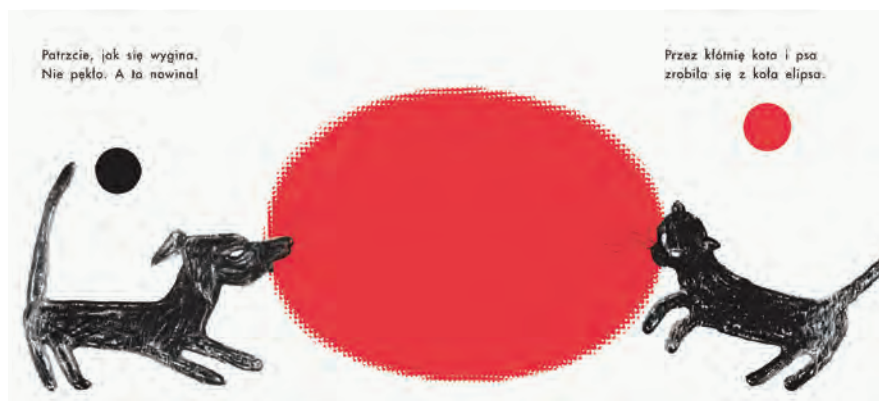
Translation rights:  
Kira Karpińska, Marta Zamecznik,  
Wydawnictwo Warstwy  
[k.janusik@domliteratury.wroc.pl](mailto:k.janusik@domliteratury.wroc.pl)

**Stanisław Zamecznik (1909-1971)** – architect, graphic designer, scenographer and lecturer. He was a member of the artists' circle influenced by Oskar Hansen's Open Form theory. Zamecznik created avantgarde spatial compositions, staged art exhibitions in the Zachęta National Art Gallery, created posters and illustrated books.



*One of the most outstanding educational children's books, first published fifty years ago, still relevant and wise, helping children to develop.*

Professor Urszula Szuścik,  
pedagogue and psychologist





# Series about Piglet

The likeable Piglet is the star of this series of amusing, charming board books for young children. It began in 2010 with the book *Piglet's First Birthday*, which won the hearts of Polish children. Then came the next books – *Piglet's Second Birthday* (2012), *Piglet's Third Birthday* (2014), *Piglet and Vehicles* (2016), and most recently *Piglet and the United Kingdom* (2017). Each book transports children to a fascinating world where many surprises and interesting characters await them. This is all thanks to Aleksandra Woldańska-Płocińska's intelligent writing and bold illustrations.

**Aleksandra Woldańska-Płocińska** (1985) – graphic designer, illustrator and children's book author. She studied graphic design at the University of Fine Arts in Poznań, where she's still based. In 2010, her book won an award for the Most Beautiful Book of the Year of 2009 in the competition organized by the Polish Society of Book Publishers. The series about Piglet won her the popularity and affection of child readers.



## NOMINATION

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2011

## SERIA O PROSIACZKU

**Aleksandra Woldańska-Płocińska**

Wydawnictwo Czerwony Konik  
Kraków 2010-2017

180 x 180, 32 pages

ISBN 978-83-926726-2-3 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Czerwony Konik  
[wydawnictwo@czerwonykonik.pl](mailto:wydawnictwo@czerwonykonik.pl)



*I've been going along with Piglet for 7 years; he was celebrating his first birthday back then. He's had lots more birthdays since. He's shared his fascination with wheeled vehicles with us. And now he's accepted his cousin's invitation and is heading off to the UK (and a little worried about its size). I recommend him!*

[www.prowincjonalnanauczycielka.pl](http://www.prowincjonalnanauczycielka.pl)



*Of all the many books given as presents under the Christmas tree, the board book Piglet and Vehicles is my son's absolute favourite. Frequently read, looked at, commented on and giggled at, it perfectly suited to the tastes of a small fan of cars and trucks.*

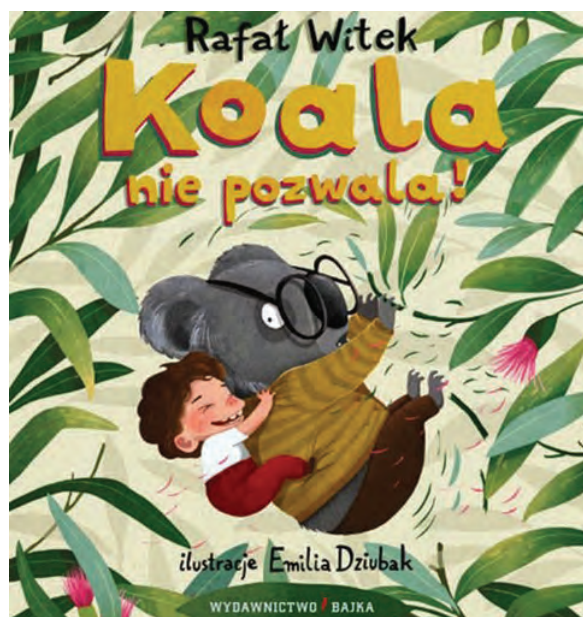
Paulina Zaborek, [poczytajdziecku.pl](http://poczytajdziecku.pl)



# Koala Bear Says Don't You Dare

*Koala Bear Says Don't You Dare* is a board book designed for children two and up. Rafał Witek's short, funny rhymes are complemented by Emilia Dziubak's gorgeous illustrations, meaning older children and adults too will enjoy looking through this little book. The protagonist is Mr Koala, who's a very nice animal but likes children to observe certain rules with him. In a humorous way, the authors show children what is and is not allowed. In an attractive and easy-to-remember form, the rhymes teach appropriate behaviour and respect not just for animals but other people too.

**Rafał Witek** (1971) – writer of novels, short stories, radio dramas and poems for children. Among his books are *The Beach of Secrets*; *Julka Kulka*, *Fioletka and Me* (which won a distinction in the 2009 Book of the Year competition of the Polish section of IBBY) and *The Flying Aunts' Club* (2nd place in the Astrid Lindgren Competition). In 2015 he received the Kornel Makuszyński Literary Award. He works with the bimonthly magazine *Świerszczyk*, the portal *Q!turka* and *Mille Voci* children's choir.



## KOALA NIE POZWALA!

Rafał Witek

Emilia Dziubak

Wydawnictwo Bajka

Warszawa 2016

170 x 190, 30 pages

ISBN 978-83-65479-02-0

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Bajka

p.krolikowski@bajkizbajki.pl

Rights sold to: China

**Emilia Dziubak** – illustrator and children's author. She made her debut in 2011 with a cookbook for children entitled: *A Treat for Picky Eaters*. The book was selected for the final of the prestigious 4th CJ Picture Book Award in South Korea competition for the most beautiful book illustrations. Her artwork also appears in magazines such as *Gaga*, *Przekrój*, *Wprost* and *Art & Business*.



*Big or small – everybody has a bit of Koala in them: they're headstrong, fascinated by the world, love to play, and dream of peace and quiet and lazing around. It's an amusing story which invites children and adults to have fun with language.*

Professor Urszula Szuścik,  
pedagogue and psychologist





# Mr Roly-Poly (series)

Short, colourfully illustrated stories for children of all age. Everyone will want to know Mr Roly-Poly. He makes sure people are safe and is a discreet playmate. He's tolerant but teaches people to respect the rules. But you can always rely on his forgiving smile. Mr Roly-Poly is an ideal adult. His wards are Disaster the Duck, Dotty the Dog and Buzz-Buzz the Fly. Each of them – although they're very different from each other – has their place in the heart of Mr Roly-Poly, who can cope with the frisky Disaster, think up fun games for the calm Dotty and attract the attention of the fidgety Buzz-Buzz. Because things are never boring in Mr Roly-Poly's home.

**Wojciech Widłak** (1957) – writer and columnist, author of school textbooks and long-time editor of the monthly *Child*. Although he's known chiefly for the Mr Roly-Poly books, he's written dozens of articles and around 30 children's books. His writing has won him the 2009 Best European Schoolbook Award, the top award in the Child Friendly World competition of the Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights in 2010 and 2011, a Fredro Quill in 2011, a Gulliver in the Land of the Lilliputs in 2013 and a Pegazik award in 2016 in the category of authoring a book for children and young people.



**BESTSELLER – 300 000 COPIES SOLD**

## PAN KULECZKA (SERIES)

Wojciech Widłak

Elżbieta Wasiuczyńska

Wydawnictwo Media Rodzina

Poznań 2002-2018

210 x 227, 48 pages

ISBN 978-83-7278-062-1 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Media Rodzina

joanna.nowakowska@mediarodzina.pl

Rights sold to: China, Slovakia

**Elżbieta Wasiuczyńska** (1966) – painter, graphic designer, illustrator of children's books. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow at the faculties of painting and graphic design. She works with children's magazines and companies designing clothing and accessories for children. She received a distinction at the Pro-Bologna exhibition in 2001 for her illustrations for books from the Mr Roly-Poly series.



"That one, that one!" called Disaster the Duck, flapping her wings, "It's so colourful!"

"Or maybe that one, with the photos?" asked Dotty the Dog.

"No!" hummed Buzz-Buzz the Fly and still nothing was clear.

They were standing in front of a big display, looking at calendars. There was still some time to go until New Year, but Mr Roly-Poly had explained that with time you had it, and you had it, then suddenly you didn't, so they'd decided to go to the bookshop that very day.

"Or maybe this one, or this one with the animals?" asked Dotty again.

Disaster looked at one calendar then another.

"Animals indeed!" she said. "Just dogs, dogs, dogs and cats, cats, cats. But not a duck to be seen!"

Dotty sighed.

"Maybe we don't have to buy a new calendar at all?" he wondered. "I mean the old one is still fine and everybody likes it."

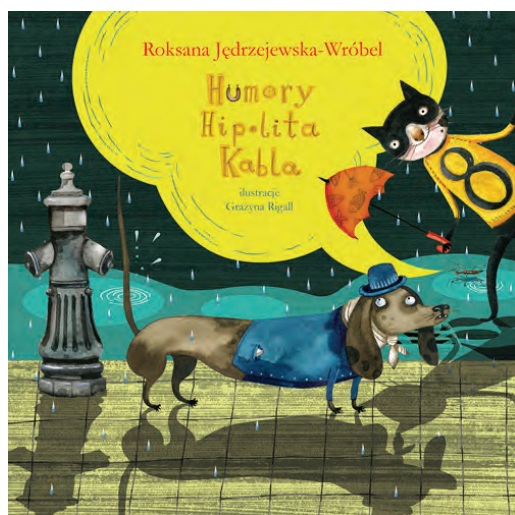
*The simple and affectionately ironic adventures of the four friends: a duck, a fly and dog, who are looked after by Mr Roly-Poly who is endowed with a patience that's rare today. Elżbieta Wasiuczyńska's warm, extremely picturesque illustrations evoke the worlds of Milne and Janoszy. I should think all nursery children in Poland – and a lot in China too – know Wojciech Widłak's series, which have sold in hundreds of thousands of copies.*

Łukasz Dębski, co-creator of the Children's Literature Festival

# The Moods of Hippolytus Kabel

The dachshund Hippolytus Kabel is awfully moody. He can be gloomy, often gets depressed, occasionally gets cross and once simply exploded; although fortunately no damage was done. You'd need to be extremely patient, gentle and understanding to be his friend. Is anyone like that? Sure. His faithful companion the cat Aloysius Kettledrum would do anything for Kabuń – as he calls him affectionately. Aloysius endures every cutting remark with stoic calm, answers every desperate text without hesitation, looks for Kabuń's good mood when he loses it, brings him his favourite sausages and is even prepared to give up his own aspirations. Hippolytus Kabel's moods can cause uncontrollable guffaws of laughter. We ask readers to be cautious and while they're reading to avoid consuming sausages: neither liverwurst nor blood pudding.

**Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel** (1969) – writer, author of children's books, screenplays and stage adaptations, a doctor in literature studies. She's written over twenty books for children which have received numerous awards and distinctions, and also been selected for the List of Treasures at the Museum of Children's Literature in Warsaw. She has represented Polish children's literature at the Festival of Polish Culture in Chivasso, Italy, and at the Festival of Literature in Mannheim, Germany.



**HUMORY HIPOLITA KABLA**  
**Roksana Jędrzejewska-Wróbel**  
**Grażyna Rigall**

Wydawnictwo Adamada  
Gdańsk 2015  
240 x 240, 40 pages  
ISBN 978-83-7420-647-1

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo Adamada  
mankiewicz@adamada.pl

**Rights sold to: Macedonia, Russia**



**Grażyna Rigall (1970)** – painter, children's book illustrator, graphic designer. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk. Her greatest professional passion is designing and making unique dolls which she presents at numerous exhibitions in Poland and throughout the world. She works with the most important children's publishers and magazines.



"On a September night, under unknown circumstances, somebody swapped out Hippolytus Kabel's mood. They took away his own, splendid – although fairly worn out – mood and replaced it with a completely new, but extremely bad one. The previous evening, as Hippolytus was curling up like a croissant under his tartan blanket as usual, his good humour was in its proper place, just beside the dachshund's colourful rag ball. Now, though, there was an unpleasantly empty space on the blanket, with a tangled ball of sadness and anger in the corner. Kabel stood up, stretched his legs and wanted to wag his tail, but unfortunately his tail categorically refused to cooperate – it wagged stiffly and spitefully. Kabel tried to encourage his tail by barking at it, but only a dull humming sound issued from his mouth. He ran over to the mirror in alarm..."



# 5+

**Basia (series)**

**The Memoirs of Little Black Nose**

**Teddy Floppy-Ear**

**Five Clever Martens**

**See Jack Run. What about Jacek?**

**A Few Choice Phrases**

**Big Issues in Little Heads**

**Goose Cuts Loose**



# Basia (series)

Basia is a little girl, she lives in a town with her parents, two brothers, a tortoise called Kajetan and a cuddly friend – Eddy the Teddy. Like every child, Basia has tons of ideas, is creative and cheerful but can also get angry, doesn't like tidying up, dreams about having a pet of her own, and is occasionally jealous of her younger brothers. She's not good all the time – but you can't help liking her. Although she sometimes ends up in difficult situations, she always copes with them as best as she can. Basia discovers that important questions often have simple answers. This likeable little girl has won the hearts of Polish children. For that reason, apart from the several dozen books collected together in a number of series, an animated serial starring Basia has recently been made and is being screened in cinemas all over Poland.

**Zofia Stanecka** – the author of several dozen children's books. She debuted in 2004, but she achieved her greatest popularity with a series of short books about Basia, in which the author combines humour with an important message. Aside from that, she writes books in the series *I'm a Fan of Reading* (about Alojzy the Troll, Robert the Robot and the *Titanic*), short stories, fairy tales and novels (*The Secret of the Soggy Sponge* and *The Book of Ludenson*). Her book *The World According to Grandpa* was nominated for the 2013 Book of the Year award of the Polish Section of IBBY.



ANIMATED SERIES HAS  
BEEN MADE BASED ON THE BOOKS

## BASIA (SERIES)

**Zofia Stanecka**

**Marianna Oklejak**

Wydawnictwo Egmont

Warszawa 2011-2018

215 x 260, 24 pages

ISBN 978-83-237-5304-9 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Egmont

maria.deskur@egmont.pl

**Marianna Oklejak** (1981) – graphic designer and illustrator. Graduated with distinction from the Faculty of Graphic Design of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (2006) in the book design and illustration studios. Her illustrations have earned awards and distinctions from the Polish Section of IBBY (*I'm a City: Warsaw, King Matt the First*) and also won awards in the prestigious South Korean CJ Picture Book Award.



"On Saturday morning Mum made us tidy up.

"Time to clear the house out of things we don't need," she declared.

She brought down some boxes from the overhead cupboard and began to sift through our winter clothes. She took out ski-suits, skiing helmets and gloves and put them into huge piles in the middle of the floor. Franek took some gloves out of them and put them on his feet. Basia dug out some pink, fur-trimmed shoes with plastic heels, mum's lace blouse, a hat with a faded plastic flower and a gold, fake-leather jacket. She put them on and stood in front of the mirror.

"I'm gorgeous!" she declared in a resolute voice. "Gorgeous and trendy."

"You must be joking!" snorted Janek. He was sitting on a pile of scarves in dad's big helmet and looked at his sister critically. "You just look ridiculous!"

"Mum, he's calling me names!" Basia complained. "Say something to him!"

"Janek, I'll tell you something," said mum absent-mindedly. She rummaged around in a heap of ski-suits and mumbled something to herself with a frown. Dad had strategically withdrawn to the kitchen some time earlier.

"Mum, tell him I look gorgeous!" Basia demanded.

"You look gorgeous, gorgeous..." muttered mum. She picked up a blue ski-suit from the floor, checked the label and sighed. "It's incredible. We have so many things and none of them are the right size."



*I like Basia because she's like the Six Bullerby Children: brimming with the happiness of childhood. It's real happiness, not saccharine happiness. The children here have their problems, doubts and dilemmas, but their world radiates smiles and goodness and their lives take place under a safe sky.*

Professor Grzegorz Leszczyński, head of the Children's and Young Adult Literature Research Centre at the University of Warsaw



# The Memoirs of Little Black Nose

*The Memoirs of Little Black Nose* are the jottings of a small teddy bear who was sitting very bored in a shop window and whose greatest dream was to become a child's best friend. The teddy bear's wish came true and a little girl became his guardian. And there begin the remarkable adventures of Little Black Nose, who keeps getting into scrapes. Janina Porazińska's classic, pre-war tale, which generations grew up with, can move and entertain contemporary children too.

**Janina Porazińska** (1882-1971) – poet, prose writer, translator, editor. Her stories for children were published even before the First World War. For many years she edited a raft of children's magazines, including: *Plomyczek*, *Słonko* and *Poranek*. During the Second World War she was an educational and cultural activist in the underground. As a writer she loved Polish folklore and wrote her own poetry and fairy tales based on it. She drew on Polish parables, songs and tales. Her books have delighted new generations, entered the canon of school readers and have been translated into many languages.



**CLASSIC**  
OF POLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

## PAMIĘTNIK CZARNEGO NOSKA

Janina Porazińska

Ewa Podleś

Wydawnictwo Wilga (Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal)

Warszawa 2017

142 x 202, 128 pages

ISBN 978-83-280-4618-4

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Wilga (Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal)

Blanka.Woskowiak@gwfoksal.pl

**Ewa Podleś** – graphic designer, illustrator of children's books. She has collaborated with the publishing houses Skrzat, BIS and Wilga. She also creates artistic fabrics and stained-glass windows.



"I was standing in the shop window.

Everyone was happy. The tin monkey kept climbing up his string. The clockwork locomotive was whizzing around in circles on the tracks and the ball with the moon painted on it was blowing out its cheeks and making funny faces.

And outside, trams were ringing on their tracks and cars were roaring. And people were flashing by along the pavement this way and that.

Children often used to stand in front of the shop window.

Out of all of them, I especially liked the look of one little girl. She had on a short coat and gloves. She always stood in front of the window in the morning, tapped a finger on the glass and said:

"Hello, bear!"

And when she walked home from school she also stopped in front of the window and looked at me, even when it was raining.

So that is how we fell in love with each other: that little girl and me.

I really wanted to be her son and was very afraid somebody else would buy me."





# Teddy Floppy-Ear

Teddy Floppy-Ear celebrated his sixtieth birthday in 2017! In honour of the occasion a special edition of the adventures of Poland's most popular little bear was published, containing three volumes of short stories with all the original illustrations. The bear's name was given to him by children as the result of a competition. The first book about his adventures was published in 1960 with the title *The Adventures and Travels of Teddy Floppy-Ear*. Four more volumes came out in the following years. That was only the beginning of Teddy's popularity. In 1975, the Semafor animated film studio began production of a stop-motion TV series which turned out to be a real hit. Nurseries and children's clubs were named after the bear and the books were translated into foreign languages. Teddy Floppy-Ear became the hero of radio shows and television programmes in Poland and all around the world.

**Czesław Janczarski** (1911-1971) – poet, translator, author of numerous and frequently reprinted children's books. The creator of the popular magazine for children *Teddy Bear* and contributor to many other magazines for children. In 1957 he received the Golden Cross of Merit for his writing for children. The themes of Janczarski's timeless books revolve around issues that are closest to children – their everyday lives, situations at home or nursery and also problems that have to be solved.



## CALASSIC

OF POLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

### MIŚ USZATEK

Czesław Janczarski

Zbigniew Rychlicki

Nasza Księgarnia

Warszawa 2016

195 x 254, 240 pages

ISBN 978-83-10-13000-6

Translation rights:

Nasza Księgarnia

[a.zielinska@nk.com.pl](mailto:a.zielinska@nk.com.pl)

Rights sold to: Slovakia, Japan, Russia,  
China, Taiwan, Macedonia

**Zbigniew Rychlicki** (1922-1989) – graphic artist, outstanding illustrator of children's books. The winner of over 20 Polish and foreign awards and distinctions, including the Hans Christian Andersen Award in the field of illustration (1982) given by the International Board on Books for Young People for outstanding artistic achievements. The work of Zbigniew Rychlicki has been admired in Amsterdam, London, Prague, Budapest, Cairo, Minsk, Beijing, Bratislava, Tokyo, Sofia and Vienna.



"I came here from Ania's," said Floppy-Ear. "Where are you from, Monkey?"

"Africa," answered Fik-Mik the Monkey.

"Africa?" said Teddy in surprise. "Where's Africa?"

"Africa's in the Warm Countries," Monkey explained to Teddy.

"Tell me about the Warm Countries," asked Uszatek.

Monkey began to talk. Teddy closed his eyes. He felt as though he could see what he was hearing, that he was travelling to Africa.

"It's very hot there..." said Monkey.

"Very..." whispered Teddy.

"And there are green palm trees growing there. There are coconuts on some of them and figs on others."

"Oh!" sighed Uszatek.



# Five Clever Martens

A culinary detective story full of unexpected twists about a gang of clever, likeable martens prowling around the Bielany district of Warsaw. Prot Eustachy, Tomasz Montana, Euzebiusz, Ms Patrycja and Purchawka daringly thwart an attempt on the life and heavenly recipes of Ms Eliza and uncover a plot in the high-end restaurant business. Ms Eliza finally opens a cult eatery in a squalid kebab joint. In the book we're also treated to the wonderful recipes of Ms Patrycja (for martens) and Ms Eliza (for non-martens).

**Justyna Bednarek** (1970) – Romance language specialist, journalist and editor. She made her debut in 2004 as a children's writer but her most popular work was the novel *The Incredible Adventures of Ten Socks*, which readers voted best children's book in the 2015 Empik Comma and Full Stop competition and also received the 2016 City of Warsaw Literary Award.



## NOMINATION

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016

### PIĘĆ SPRYTNYCH KUN

Justyna Bednarek

Daniel de Latour

Wydawnictwo Poradnia K

Warszawa 2016

170 x 244, 134 pages

ISBN 978-83-63960-57-5

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Poradnia K

k.jaszecka@poczta.fm



**Daniel de Latour (1971)** – illustrator, graphic designer and musician. He's illustrated many children's books and school textbooks. His graphic novel won an award in a competition of the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising. He works with magazines for children and adults.



*This book is simply delicious! Not only is the story itself astonishing but the image of martens eating mirabelle plum jam is seared into my memory.*

Katia Roman-Trzaska, founder of the Little Chef School of Cooking

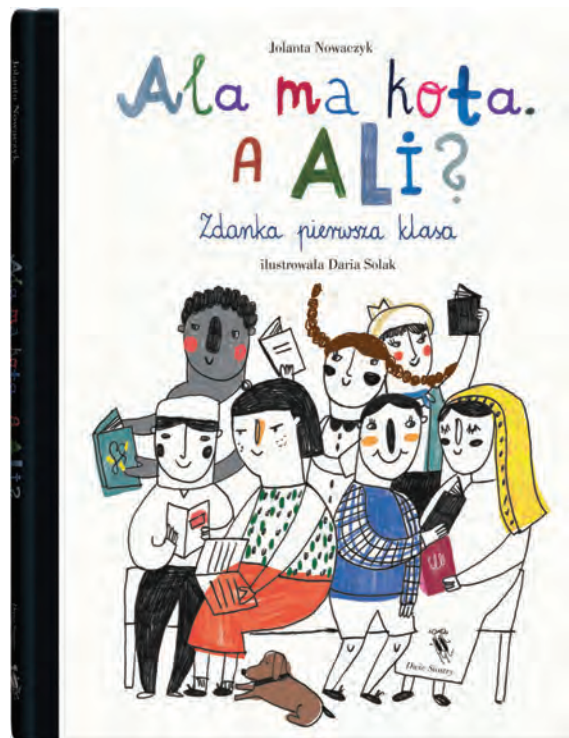
"Prot Eustachy felt his mouth watering at the mere thought of it! Those plump worms prepared by Ms Patrycja in Thai style with fish sauce and lemongrass; rare ingredients she'd stocked up on at a friendly kitchen in Karska Street (while her hostess was out, naturally). Those Roman snails, cooked deliciously by Tomasz Montana, who was as au fait with French cuisine as he was with a lasso and a revolver. Or frogs made into Hungarian goulash (if only Ms Patrycja had managed to filch some real lard and smoked paprika from somewhere) or also classic frogs' legs cooked in brown ale. After such a lavish meal, dessert was usually mirabelle plum confiture, because that was the most prevalent fruit tree in Linde's Forest, where the courageous fivesome had their base."



# See Jack Run. What about Jacek? A Few Choice Phrases

A journey through first readers from around the world – 25 countries are represented using the first sentences children learn to read. Do you remember your first reading book? Are you interested in finding out what children from all over the world learn to read first? This part-book, part-map will give children answers to those questions and teach them that the world is diverse and that makes it fascinating.

**Jolanta Nowaczyk** (1992) – a visual artist working in media such as video, installations and performance. She graduated from the Faculty of Intermedia at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków and is currently studying at the Szczecin Art Academy. *See Jack Run. What About Jacek?* is her first children's book, inspired by a conversation with a Georgian.



## BOLOGNA PRIZE

FOR THE BEST CHILDREN'S PUBLISHER  
OF THE YEAR 2018 IN EUROPE

**ALA MA KOTA. A ALI?  
ZDANKA PIERWSZA KLASA**  
Jolanta Nowaczyk  
Daria Solak

Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry  
Warszawa 2016  
150 X 200, 52 pages  
ISBN 978-83-64347-96-2

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo Dwie Siostry  
jadzia@wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl

**Daria Solak** (1991) – illustrator and graphic designer. She studied at the Academies of Fine Arts in Warsaw and Bologna. See *Jack Run. What about Jacek?* is her illustrating debut.



Polish children begin to learn to read with the expression: "Ala has a cat", Algerian children with "Layla is milking the cow" and Swedish children with "Daddy is rowing, mummy is lovely". This book brings a smile to adults' faces while children's faces are painted with a picture of amazement and delight at the diversity of cultures.

Professor Grzegorz Leszczyński, head of the Children's and Young Adult Literature Research Centre at the University of Warsaw

The extremely appealing and original concept of this book invites readers on an intercultural journey. Here, we look at the world emerging from written language: the first, most elementary images that beginning readers interact with. The world described in words begins differently in every language – and a journey on the trail of those differences can be fascinating.

From the verdict of the International Jury of the 2014 Jasnowidze Children's Picture Book Competition





# Big Issues in Little Heads

This is the first book of its kind in Poland – written for children and adults, containing stories told by disabled children. A child who asks questions – including ones that are awkward for adults – such as: *Why can't he walk/talk/hear?* always wants the same thing: to know and understand the world. And when they receive calm, matter-of-fact answers they understand that the world is diverse and people can be different. This book helps “little heads” (and often “big” ones) to go further – it helps them see that there's more to disabled people than their differences and physical challenges. This book's first edition achieved great popularity, showing how necessary it is to explain the world on our doorstep which we sometimes do our best to ignore.

**Agnieszka Kossowska** – German linguist, Doctor of Social Science, lecturer at the Opole University of Technology. At home she's the mum of Natalia and Franek, who is disabled. She chronicles all the joys and woes of her four-person family on her blog “Brave Franek”. The experience of being the mum of a disabled child and hours of conversations with other parents and children convinced her to write *Big Issues in Little Heads*.



**DUŻE SPRAWY  
W MAŁYCH GŁOWACH**  
Agnieszka Kossowska  
Jacek Ambrożewski,  
Patricia Bliuj-Stodulska,  
Amelia Markiewicz,  
Aneta Lewandowska,  
Anna Kloza-Rozwadowska,  
Marta Kosek, Szawel Płóciennik

Wydawnictwo Linia  
Opole 2018  
209 x 213, 214 pages  
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Translation rights:  
Agnieszka Kossowska/Wydawnictwo Linia  
[bialaplama@wydawnictwolinia.pl](mailto:bialaplama@wydawnictwolinia.pl)



"My name's Franio. I'm six.

I can't talk, but I can say anything I want to using my hands or pictures. These pictures are called "pictograms".

The doctor told me I have autism. In nursery I have a friend, Julka, who's also got autism (...). I don't know why we have it – my parents told us we were born this way. Autism isn't infectious like a cold or a cough. And it can't be cured by syrup or a pill.

Mum gets annoyed that I don't tell her how it went at nursery. I don't boast when my teacher says I've drawn a lovely picture. And it's strange to me that she doesn't know about it. I mean all those thoughts are in my head, so why can't she see them?

My grandma says I'm an early bird. But I'm not a bird, after all – I'm a boy. And I always arrive on time. Grandpa said yesterday that I'm hot-headed and that my sister's head is in the clouds. But I keep my head cool and my sister's down here and the clouds are up there! Why do people talk in such a complicated way?

I don't like changes or surprises. So in the morning my parents make me a plan for the day using pictograms.

When I look out of the window I see a hinge on a swing, a boy's red socks and a flower on the grass.

Mum says it's children playing outside, but it's difficult for me to see it all together. (...)

Sometimes children point at me and call me names because I behave differently. I don't like it when people laugh at me. It makes me feel sad. Has that ever happened to you? It's like I was at the very top of a mountain. Everybody can see me but no one can come close to me. Because the top of a mountain looks like a tiny dot from below, but there's really a lot of space on up there."



*This book moved me! (...) It ought to be published all around the planet, because it values disabled people. It's amazing that you showed other people what our world is like. Thank you.*

Jola Korzec, a seventeen-year-old deaf person



# Goose Cuts Loose

The protagonist of this funny, smart story is a Goose – but she's no ordinary goose, because she's got some very serious problems. Goose can't see any point to her life, feels useless, and in spare moments she sighs and writes melancholy poems. Our heroine thinks the only person who can rescue her from depression is... Fox, whom she tries to convince to gobble her up. There's only one snag – Fox has no intention of eating her! Guśniowska's book – illustrated amusingly by Romanowicz – is quirky and talks about the meaning of life and friendship in an appealing way.

**Marta Guśniowska** (1979) – famous and award-winning fairy-tale writer, author of almost a hundred plays staged in most Polish children's theatres and many outside Poland. Currently linked to Białystok Puppet Theatre. Her fairy tales are full of surprises, wittily instructive, poetic and smart and on top of that compact. The stories are appealing for young readers and adults alike.



**A NIECH TO GĘŚ KOPNIE**  
**Marta Guśniowska**  
**Robert Romanowicz**

Wydawnictwo Tashka  
Warszawa 2017  
155 x 305, 96 pages  
ISBN 978-83-64634-35-2

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo Tashka  
[tashka@tashka.pl](mailto:tashka@tashka.pl)

**Robert Romanowicz** (1976) – painter, Illustrator, scenographer. Romanowicz trained as an architect and it was architecture that shaped his graphic take on art. His work is the fruit of many years of searching, experiments in various media and using various methods of expression. He is based in Wrocław.



"Right then, most geese would probably have stayed quiet. But our Goose isn't most geese. What's more – she thought – being swallowed like that wouldn't be so bad, because it would end her pointless life.

"I'd give some serious thought," she declared, "to gobbling me up."

Fox ignored her. He had quite enough troubles of his own: the finest-looking chicken seemed to keep getting heavier!

"A death like that would solve tons of my problems..." Goose went on, "The existential ones in particular. No one likes me anyhow... and I'm ugly... kind of skinny... and I suffer, as a poet ought to. Because poems just aren't enough, oh, they aren't enough!"

"Be quiet! Or you'll wake everybody up!" hissed Fox, who was overwhelmed by the chicken.

"That's an idea!" Goose said, encouraged. "If you don't devour me I'll start screaming and wake everybody."

"No, wait!" yelled Fox.

"Yes, weight – I'm three and a half kilos, to be precise," replied Goose matter-of-factly, then sidled up to Fox, whispering, "Here's the deal: either you make a square meal of me or I kick up a racket. I'm counting to three. Oooone..."



Anyone expecting another cute children's story, stuffed with morals and with a clichéd happy ending will be disappointed. Marta Guśniowska's latest offering is an original story that keeps surprising readers.

Karolina Obszyńska, Fika / Child & Art

Check this book out – you're in for a treat! Adults will often smile, and not just when their kids are giggling, though they will then too.

Maja Kupiszewska, makiwgiverny.pl

# 9+

**Wojtek: The Soldier Without A Uniform**

**The Archeo Chronicles (series)**

**My Wonderful Childhood in Aleppo**

**Lists in a Bottle:**

**A Story About Irena Sendler**

**The Witch From Downstairs (series)**

**Skeletown**

**The Wonder of Garlands:**

**Polish Folklore for Young and Old**

**The Green Gloves**





# Wojtek: The Soldier Without A Uniform

*Wojtek: The Soldier Without A Uniform* isn't a fairy tale – it's a true story with a true ending. It's a book about values: honesty, courage and freedom. It's a book about feelings: friendship, love, sadness and anger. It's ultimately a book about growing up. Its historical content has a universal quality and has been translated here into children's language, translocated into situations they find familiar. The warm illustrations mean the story is not haunted by the dangers of war. Learn the story of Wojtek, a soldier who marched with General Anders' Army through the Middle East and then found himself in Italy, where he fought at Monte Cassino. Learn the story of the most famous bear in the world!

**Eliza Piotrowska** (1976) – author and illustrator of several dozen children's books, winner of numerous literary awards, historian, art critic and translator. A graduate of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the La Sapienza University in Rome. She's worked with the largest publishers and magazines for children in Poland. The series *Tupcio Chrupcio* brought her the greatest fame. Though Piotrowska has lived abroad for many years (first in Rome and since 2011 she's been based in Brazil), she's never stopped being published in Poland – her texts appear in newspapers, magazines and in a book form.



## PHOENIX AWARD

FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF  
CATHOLIC PUBLISHERS IN 2018

## WOJTEK. ŻOŁNIERZ BEZ MUNDURU

Eliza Piotrowska

Wydawnictwo Święty Wojciech

Poznań 2017

180 x 210, 96 pages

ISBN 978-83-8065-039-8

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Święty Wojciech

[sklep@swietywojciech.pl](mailto:sklep@swietywojciech.pl)

"Let's call him 'Wojtek'. Wojtek means 'happy warrior'," said the oldest soldier.

And the name stuck.

That soldier was called Piotr Prendysz and he was a Pole. His uniform smelled of earth, dry leaves and home. I was glad I'd finally found a dad.

I was weak and hungry. The Iranian boy who carried me in in a jute sack was also weak and hungry. Which is why he gave me to the Polish soldiers for a bar of chocolate, a tin of meat and a Swiss-army knife.

If it hadn't been for the Poles I'd have had to dance at fairs, like some bears did. Don't think those bears are dancing for joy. Those bears dance because they have to. Their noses are pierced with a metal ring that's attached to a chain. The tamer tugs on the chain and calls: "See the merriest bear of all! He dances from morning till night! He hops like nobody's business!"

That young bear is very sad and if he's hopping it's not for joy, but because it's in pain. But some people believe the tamer and are prepared to pay a lot to see such a performance.

The Polish soldiers didn't pierce my nose with a metal ring or force me to dance. I didn't have to do anything. I danced when I wanted to. Because I liked dancing. I was free. Free and happy.

I finally had a real family."



*The compelling story, crucially based on historical fact, of Wojtek the bear who accompanied Polish soldiers during the Second World War.*

Bogna Biłucka, psychologist,  
head of the Foundation of Health Education  
and Psychotherapy

*The book doesn't shock with scenes of brutality. It focuses chiefly on showing both what Wojtek might have felt and what soldiers felt, in a totally foreign place, far from their families.*

Barbara Męczykowska, [histmag.org](http://histmag.org) – the biggest  
Polish website for history fans

# The Archeo Chronicles

Every child would like – at least for one day – to play the role of a detective-archaeologist and have the adventure of a lifetime. The heroes of the Archeo Chronicles will make their dreams can come true. Young readers can travel with Bartek and Ania Ostrowski through the most fascinating parts of the world, discover deeply hidden mysteries and find real treasures. Each book of the series allows readers to unravel a new puzzle and be kept in suspense right up to the very last page. Each novel by Agnieszka Stelmasyk brings fresh challenges to its likeable heroes and delight to its young readers.

**Agnieszka Stelmasyk** (1976) – author of books for children and young people, traveller. She made her debut in 2007 with the collection *Short Stories with a Moral*. The first volume of the *Archeo Chronicles* – a series that has become a bestseller – came out in 2010. Ten volumes of the adventures of the Ostrowski family have been published so far. She's also the author of other series for children and young people: *The Spy Coalition*, *Terra Incognita* and *Tomuś Orkiszek & Partners Detective Agency*. Her books have been translated into Russian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian and Azerbaijani.



**BESTSELLER – 320 000 COPIES SOLD**

## KRONIKI ARCHEO (SERIES)

Agnieszka Stelmasyk

Paweł Zaręba, Jacek Pasternak

Wydawnictwo Zielona Sowa

Kraków 2011-2018

145 x 205, 240 pages

ISBN 978-83-7623-889-0 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Zielona Sowa

[anna.piasecka@zielonasowa.pl](mailto:anna.piasecka@zielonasowa.pl)

**Rights sold to:** Lithuania, Azerbaijan,  
Ukraine, Czech Republic

**Paweł Zaręba** – illustrator and graphic designer. His drawings appeared in later books of the series.

**Jacek Pasternak** – illustrator and graphic designer, whose drawings were used in books one to seven, and activity books in the series *The Archeo Chronicles*.

*An adventure story recommended for youngsters and adults, with fast-paced action, lots of laughs and legends. It unravels mysteries and encourages us to learn about art, history and civilisation.*

Professor Urszula Szuścik, pedagogue and psychologist



"While Ania, Mary Jane and the twins were lying on the golden beach in a sheltered cove, Bartek decided to inspect the ruins of ancient temples rising up at the top of a sheer cliff.

"I'll be back in half an hour!" he shouted optimistically to his friends and marched off on a solo expedition. (...) Bartek jauntily descended the narrow path from the top of the cliff, still smiling at his own thoughts. Right by the edge of the cliff he noticed some pale pink daisies. He thought that Ania and Mary Jane would be a little annoyed that he'd been away so long, so he decided to pick them a few flowers.

"Daisies ought to placate them," he decided.

He squatted down and began picking flowers. Just beside the tussock of grass where they were growing was a layer of powdery soot.

Bartek looked closely at it.

"Hmm..." he muttered and frowned, intrigued.

He rubbed the dark substance in his fingers. He suddenly recalled where he'd seen something similar. Once, when he was small, he'd climbed Vesuvius in Italy with his parents. He remembered well what the soot had looked like. So he was almost certain that he was looking at volcanic dust. He wiped his fingers clean and intended to return to the daisies when he noticed a shining plate sticking up from the volcanic dust. Curious, he began to dig it out. He had to be extremely careful as he did it, because in that place the cliff was steeper than on the side by the bay and a deep ravine stretched out below. Finally, he managed to dig out of the black dust a small oval object resembling a brooch.

"It must be a jewel!" Bartek declared.

He'd seen something similar in the museum in Athens a few days earlier. However, the jewel looked completely different to the ornaments in the museum's display cases. It was a rose agate set in gold. The surface of the agate was decorated with a convex relief. It portrayed a bull's head with golden horns with some incomprehensible writing beneath it. However, carved with great precision beside it was an ancient ship rising on the crest of an enormous, powerful wave, as though fighting against a terrible storm.

(...) Suddenly, the fragile rock he was standing on slipped and tumbled down with a clatter, taking stones and rock chips to the bottom of the ravine with it.

Bartek cried out, staggered and fell off the cliff...

At the last moment he seized a protruding rock with his fingers and hung over the drop, trying to find a foothold."

# My Wonderful Childhood in Aleppo

Now, when everyone around is saying so much about Syria, let's hear a voice from the very centre of the conflict – the voice of eight-year-old Jasmina from Aleppo. A voice tired of a war which is going on for yet another year. One surprised by this "dangerous adults' game" that affects children. Because after all children ought to be playing in real playgrounds. And play ball without being on crutches. A voice mature beyond its years, because children grow up much faster in wars, especially when they try to understand what adults are talking about and when younger brothers receive adult answers to their questions. We learn about situations and words no children should ever have to know. Stories like this should never have to happen – and yet they do, here and now, right beside us – thanks to Gortat's book we become stronger in the face of them.

**Grzegorz Gortat** (1957) – writer and translator. He writes for younger readers as well as adult ones. A three-time winner in competitions of the Polish Section of IBBY for *To the First Blood*, *Rats and Wolves* and *Ewelina and the Black Bird*. The novel *To the First Blood* received an award from the Polish Society of Book Publishers. His books are literarily sophisticated, deal with difficult and important issues and remain in the memory for a long time.



## NOMINATION

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017

## MOJE CUDOWNE DZIECIŃSTWO W ALEPPO

Grzegorz Gortat

Marianna Sztyma

Wydawnictwo Bajka

Warszawa 2017

165 x 220, 128 pages

ISBN 978-83-65479-19-8

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Bajka

p.krolikowski@bajkizbajki.pl



**Marianna Sztyma (1973)** – painter and illustrator. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań. She creates artwork for the print media, e.g. *Twój Styl*, *Charaktery* and *Newsweek* and illustrates children's books. She also draws comics and designs covers.



*This is a children's book that every adult ought to read.*

Janina Ochojska, Polish aid activist,  
founder of the Polish Humanitarian Action



"I press my face against the cold wall. The surface riddled with bullet holes cools my forehead. I begin to count: "One... Two..." I draw out my words to give the other children more time. I'm thinking especially about Tariq. He's only three and runs slowly on his short legs. "Three..." I finish counting. I don't have to raise my voice. There's such a silence all round that if you listen out carefully you can hear the coughing of Mr Safiq from next door.

I don't think there's a better place in the whole world to play hide and seek. You don't need to prepare anything special; wherever you look there are cracks, hollows and heaps of rubble. But when you run you have to look down so you don't tread on anything that could cause death.

"Coming!" I slowly turn around and see Tariq's red shirt at once.

He hadn't run far away but had crouched behind one of two surviving concrete pillars which had once held up the roof of the bus shelter. I pretend I can't see my little brother and I keep looking all around (...)

Children play hide and seek like us all over the world. But we have an extra rule. An "iron rule" as my dad says – in a tone that can't be questioned. Under no circumstances can we move further than a hundred steps away from our house. When planes fly over we have to be able to get back in order to hide in the cellar."

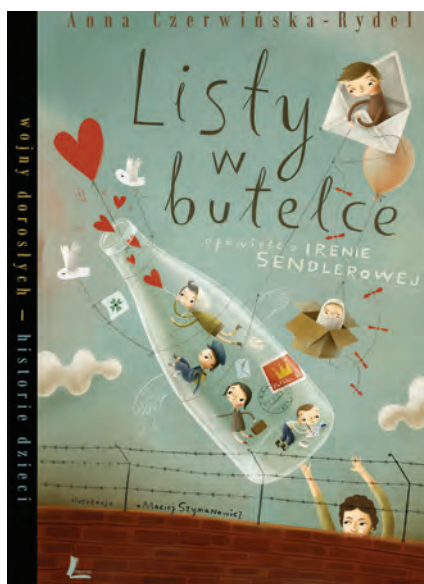
# Lists in a Bottle:

## A Story About Irena Sendler

*One day in 1941 my sister Jolanta realized what she was doing for her friends trapped in the ghetto wasn't enough to save them. "I'm going to help them in a different way", she decided and – risking her own life and that of the huge network of people who thought like her – rescued several children every day. Their list, put in an ordinary milk bottle that Jolanta buried under an apple tree one day contained... two and a half thousand children! "I only tried to live decently... It wasn't anything special. Anyone would have done that. You have to offer your hand to a drowning person. Even if they can't swim, you can always help in some way. My daddy taught me that..."*

Find out the story of Irena Sendler's life.

**Anna Czerwińska-Rydel** (1973) – musician, educator, author of numerous books for children and young people. Historical, musical, social and biographical threads are woven through her novels. She has created a remarkable series of books for children about great Poles, including: Frederick Chopin, Irena and Julian Tuwim, Janusz Korczak, Witold Lutosławski and Kornel Makuszyński. Acclaimed in Poland and abroad, she's received many prestigious awards, including first prize in the Bologna Ragazzi Award in the Nonfiction category and a nomination for the 2014 Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis for *Everything's Fine*.



**LISTY W BUTELCE.  
OPOWIEŚĆ O IRENIE SENDLEROWEJ**  
**Anna Czerwińska-Rydel**  
**Maciej Szymanowicz**

Wydawnictwo Literatura  
Łódź 2018  
171 x 240, 120 pages  
ISBN 978-83-7672-548-2

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo Literatura  
[redakcja@wydawnictwoliteratura.pl](mailto:redakcja@wydawnictwoliteratura.pl)  
English version of the text is available.

**Maciej Szymanowicz (1976)** – book cover artist, illustrator of books for children, young people and adults and designer of theatre posters and board games. He received the City of Warsaw Award for his illustrations in the book *Asiunia*, an award in the Comma and Full Stop Competition and an award at the Children's Literature Festival for *All My Mums*.



#### A Letter From the King, Warsaw, August 5, 1942

The heat was literally pouring out of the sky. The sun was burning so much that it was hard to breathe. People were moving slowly, like in a slow motion movie. Even the guards standing in front of the ghetto entrance who were usually so active, had no strength for their work. They let people in, barely looking at their passes.

Irena Sendler in the guise of a nurse, as Jolanta, was again in the queue to get behind the walls. She felt the sweat trickle down her back because she had, as always, several layers of clothing under her apron. Then, once in the ghetto she would hand out clothes, but now in this heat and crowd she felt she could not stand it much longer.

'Nurse Jolanta, come in,' murmured the policeman.

'Phew,' she sighed. As soon as she crossed the gate she took off her apron and first layer of clothes, then quickly put her nurse uniform back on, took out a Star of David armband from her purse and put it on her shoulder. The Germans demanded that all Jews should wear such signs. Irena Sendler was a Polish woman, but she deliberately wore the armband – firstly, she wanted to solidarise with the Jewish population in this way, and secondly, with the band it was easier for her to mingle with the crowd without arousing suspicions.

Since doctor Majkowski – the director of Sanitary Facilities – arranged legal passes to the ghetto under false names for her and for some other girls from the Childcare Department, there was no day that Irena (as

nurse Jolanta) would not run several times with medicines, food, clothes and various items. And virtually everything was missing behind the wall, whereas, there was no shortage of people... On a small fenced area, which accounted for less than two and a half percent of the city, several hundred thousand Jews were placed. 'The Germans planned it all...' Irena thought bitterly, walking through the streets of the closed district. 'During the first three years of the war, they arrested people in masses and transported us, Poles, to the camps. They destroyed a large part of the Polish elite. Now they've turned to the Jews...'

Translated by Katarzyna Wasilkowska



*Why is it worth being good, helping, saving lives, fighting for other people? You'll find the answer by reading Lists in a Bottle.*

Professor Urszula Szućcik, pedagogue and psychologist

# The Witch From Downstairs (series)

The bestselling series by Marcin Szczygielski, one of the most popular Polish writers of literature for children and young people. Maja is a smart nine-year-old whom every young reader will take a liking to. An apparently ordinary little girl who goes to school, likes watching soaps and eating pizza, but who every now and again has amazing adventures. Maja solves old mysteries, uncovers conspiracies, leads revolutions, overcomes magical curses, and in the so-called “meantime” gets to meet witches, ghosts and talking animals. Her amazing adventures have already filled four books: *The Witch From Downstairs*, *The Butterfly Farm*, *The Curse of the Ninth Birthday* and *A Screw Loose*. This is atmospheric fantasy for the entire family full of laughs and magic.

**Marcin Szczygielski** (1972) – writer, journalist and graphic designer. His debut novel for young people was *Omega* (2010, Book of the Year in a competition by the Polish Section of IBBY). A three-time winner of the Astrid Lindgren Grand Prix Literary Competition, winner of the Duży Dong Award for his novel *Beyond the Blue Door* and a Green Gosling for *The Witch From Downstairs*. He also won the title of Book of the Year for *The Curse of the Ninth Birthday* (2016) and *Heart of Nephthys* (2017). Winner of the prestigious City of Warsaw Literary Award in 2017 for *The Curse of the Ninth Birthday*. An author gifted with extraordinary imagination and a sense of humour, who isn't afraid to tackle difficult subjects.



## AWARD

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016

### CZAROWNICA PIĘTRO NIŻEJ (SERIES)

Marcin Szczygielski, Magda Wosik

Wydawnictwo Bajka

Warszawa 2013-2018

133 x 203, 312 pages

ISBN 978-83-61824-58-9 (1st part)

Translation rights: Wydawnictwo Bajka

p.krolikowski@bajkizbajki.pl

Rights sold to: Serbia



**Magda Wosik** (1970) – illustrator, designer and editor, lecturer at the Faculty of Graphic Design of the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław. She works with children's publishers and magazines. The winner of many important awards and distinctions in satirical drawing competitions. Co-author with Piotr Rychel of the first draw-it-yourself fairy tale in Poland entitled: *My, Oh My! A Dragon in a Necktie!*, chosen as the Best Children's Book in Empik's Comma and Full Stop Competition in 2011.



"A long, dark tunnel stretched out ahead of them. It was much wider and taller than Maja had thought when she'd passed through it before in the dark. Its red brick walls joined together over the children's heads in a gentle arch. The remains of a thick black cable ran along the ceiling, punctuated by old fittings with the bleak remnants of broken bulbs sticking out of them.

"I guess it isn't as old as I'd thought," said Maja.

"I wouldn't be so sure," responded Marek pensively.

"They might even have installed electricity before the war."

(...) She bent over, blew the dust away and pushed

down on the handle. It didn't budge. Maja pressed harder, leaning on it with all her strength. Suddenly, something grated in the lock, the handle turned and the door opened slightly with a horrifying creaking sound, making icy shivers run down the little girl's back. She took a breath and shoved the door with her shoulder. It yielded stubbornly, with the plaintive squeal of rusty hinges.

Maja looked inside. There was a room beyond the door. On one side stretched a row of metal bunkbeds – there were six of them. The mattresses had decayed into dust long before, turning into a pile of sawdust that had fallen to the floor, exposing a tangle of rusty springs. On the other side of the room stood a totally rotten table with metal shelves suspended above it and further away there was a metal cupboard. The hinges of its doors must have rusted through long ago, because one of the leaves had fallen onto the floor and the other – tilted over – was barely hanging on. The shelves inside the cupboard were also rusty and had fallen apart into reddish-brown splinters. The things from the shelves had tumbled to the floor. Old tins of meat as swollen as footballs, some tools, pots and unspecified objects were lying in a chaotic heap in front of the cupboard.

"A helmet!" cried Marek and hobbled quickly into the room, pushing Maja aside. "A real helmet! A German one! See it?"

He bent over with difficulty and picked up a perforated object full of holes lying on the top.

"Oh my God!" he shouted. "The boys will die of envy!"

(...) Maja raised the lamp higher and went over to the table. She wiped the dust from the lid of the casket to reveal a concave, oval picture. It portrayed a young woman with her hair piled up on her head. She was sitting on a chair, looking through a window which showed a snowy road and a red sun vanishing over the horizon. A piece of paper was lying in the woman's lap, and on the floor by her feet was a torn-open envelope."





# Skeletown

A father and son arrive in a small town, the titular Skeletown. We don't know much about their past, but fate clearly hasn't spared them. Now they're dreaming of starting anew and hope that everything will come right in this new place. Particularly since the father gets a job in the local library right on their first day. The director looks strange, admittedly, but his behaviour doesn't arouse any suspicions. Yet it soon turns out the whole of Skeletown is a bit strange, and few people are what they seem... In *Skeletown*, Kalinowski returns to child characters, charming locales far from civilisation and creatures and ghosts: this time from Slavic mythology. He adds a certain mysterious element to the mix, holding readers in suspense and uncertainty right to the very end of the story.

**Karol "KRL" Kalinowski** (1982) – screenwriter and comic book artist, one of the most original and interesting in Poland. He began creating graphic stories in primary school. His comic *Wooma* (*Łauma*) – for which he drew on motifs from the legends of the extinct Baltic tribe the Yotvingians – brought him most renown. The book was named best graphic novel of 2009 by the Polish Comics Association. The artist is particularly praised for his original use of line, his excellent graphic novel technique and sense of humour. His work will immediately become imbedded in your memory.



**FERDINAND THE SPLENDID AWARD**  
FOR THE BEST BOOK FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2016

## KOŚCISKO

Karol "KRL" Kalinowski

Kultura Gniewu

Warszawa 2016

165 × 165, 192 pages

ISBN 978-83-64858-47-5

Translation rights:

Kultura Gniewu

szymon@kultura.com.pl



We are dealing with a book where nothing is what it seems, where the Slavic world from *The Witcher* combines with the danger and absurd humour of Edward Gorey. The astonishing formal solutions and insane mad ideas make *Skeletown* the most outstanding Polish comic for children of the 21st century.

Łukasz Dębski, co-creator of the Children's Literature Festival

Kalinowski has pulled off something that is the trademark of great artists from Papcio Chmiel to Charles Schulz – the creation of a universal story where the artist powerfully plucks readers' sensitive heartstrings, helped by the proper choice of artistic medium.

Tomasz Miecznikowski, comic book critic

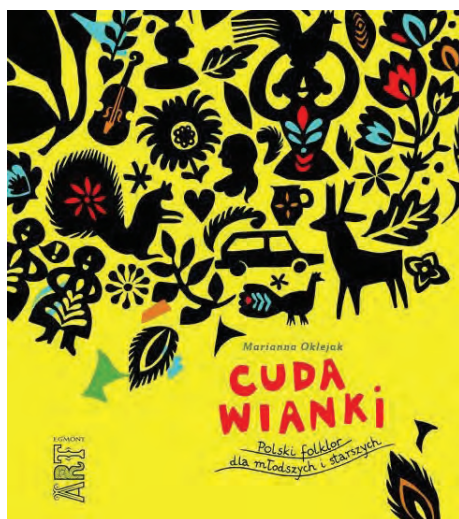
9+



# The Wonder of Garlands: Polish Folklore for Young and Old

It's spring, there's a couple in love. An engagement, a wedding. A child is born. It grows. The parents become grandparents. Winter comes. Life comes full circle and the seasons change according to their familiar rhythm. *The Wonder of Garlands* is an extraordinary publication – particularly since it arose out of pure delight. In thirty-six gloriously illustrated plates, Oklejak – a lover of Polish folklore – has created a panorama of traditional embroidery, paper cut-outs, toys, musical instruments and other elements of Polish folk culture. And it has all been woven into a graphic, ever-relevant narrative about ordinary, everyday life. This book is irrefutable proof that the world of Polish folklore is timeless and close to us, and its language still current. Polish folk culture is an extravaganza of colour, a harmony of rhythms, lovely ornaments – breath-taking diversity.

**Marianna Oklejak** (1981) – graphic designer, illustrator. Graduated with distinction from the Faculty of Graphic Design of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (2006) in the book design and illustration studios. Her illustrations have earned awards and distinction in the Polish Section of IBBY (*The Wonder of Garlands: Polish Folklore for Young and Old*, *I'm a City: Warsaw*, *King Matt the First*) and have also been honoured in the final of the prestigious South Korean CJ Picture Book Awards.



## AWARD

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2015

**CUDA WIANKI. POLSKI FOLKLOR  
DLA MŁODSZYCH I STARSZYCH**  
Marianna Oklejak

Wydawnictwo Egmont  
Warszawa 2015  
245 x 280, 80 pages  
ISBN 978-83-281-0568-3

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo Egmont  
[maria.deskur@egmont.pl](mailto:maria.deskur@egmont.pl)





# The Green Gloves

The hero of the story is Krzyś Skrzynecki – a brilliant, but helpless and slightly spoiled boy, the son of two engineers living in the Kraków suburbs at the end of the nineteenth century. Krzyś is forced to leave his parents and remain at home under the care of the servants and friends of the family; chiefly his charming and unconventional aunt, Julia. Thanks to her ingenuity – with the help of Krzyś' grandfather, a retired cavalry colonel – and some mysterious green gloves, important changes take place within the young protagonist. The author is seeking out a lost world and finds it among old paintings, furniture, teacups, silver spoons, and particularly family photographs, letters and scraps of recollections. It's a story about a period that can still teach us a great deal.

**Hanna Koschembahr-Łyskowska** (1951) – historian and painter. She graduated in history at the University of Toruń and then in painting at the State Academy of Art in Gdańsk. Her book *The Green Gloves* was nominated by readers for the 11th edition of the City of Warsaw Literary Award.



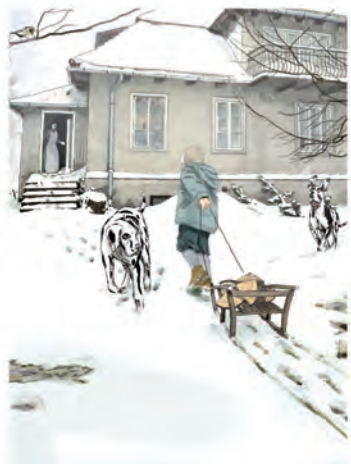
**ZIELONE RĘKAWICZKI**  
**Hanna Koschembahr-Łyskowska**  
**Rafał Czerniak**

Wydawnictwo Klinika Języka  
Grodzisk Mazowiecki 2017  
170 x 245, 131 pages  
ISBN 9788364197406

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo Klinika Języka  
[klinikajezyka@gmail.com](mailto:klinikajezyka@gmail.com)



**Rafał Czerniak** (1974) – archaeologist, graphic designer and desktop publisher, lover of antiques and beautiful books.



*The book depicts a young and initially somewhat spoilt boy who learns to be resourceful. After reading it my children said: "We want to be like him too" which is probably the best recommendation.*

Bogna Białecka – psychologist, head of the Foundation of Health Education and Psychotherapy.

"A line led from Kraków – where their house was marked with a red heart – through the whole of Europe, across the Atlantic Ocean and all the way to America. It ended with a circle drawn in the rocky, western part of the United States. In it, father had written: We are here. We are working here. We miss you tremendously, Krzyś.

"My God, it's so far," sighed Krzyś, when Mr Steinhoff taught him how to calculate distances on the map. "Further than to the moon."

"For you, my boy, it really is further than it is to the moon," answered Mr Steinhoff. "So in that case we'll have an astronomy lesson tomorrow. We'll examine the Solar System. Till tomorrow then, my dear boy. Now wrap up warm and see me to the gate. And have a run around the garden before lunch."

That's exactly what the dogs were waiting for. Mr Steinhoff's daily words: "Till tomorrow then, my dear boy," meant boisterous frolicking around the garden with Krzyś. It was never so much fun without Krzyś. There was no need to fight for a rag ball or a big branch blown off the linden tree by the wind. (...) Both Great Danes were also very excited by the hare tracks in the vegetable patch. Before the winter, there were lots of green kale tops left in the rows. They even stuck up above the snow and all the local hares had known for years that they could survive the harshest winter thanks to the Skrzyneckis' vegetable patch. For here was where the town ended, and beyond the garden fields, fallow land, clay pit ponds and forests began. There were no end of hares and partridges. They often held hunting trips out there, so Mrs Skrzynecka's fears about holes in the fence at the rear of the garden were perfectly justified. If the dogs ran off during the shooting it could end tragically for them.

When the bell on the porch rang to summon Krzyś to lunch, the boy got up from the snowdrift he'd fallen into while he'd been playing with the dogs and brushed the snow from his clothes. He stopped and took in everything around him. Suddenly, the house and garden seemed bigger to him than before. And very empty. I have to be brave and grown-up. Just like dad told me, he thought."

# 13+

**The Otherworldly House**

**Felix, Net and Nika (series)**

**The King**

**The Black Lakes**

**The Revelation of St John the Divine.**  
**A Graphic Novel**

**5 seconds to lo**

**Keys**



# The Otherworldly House

Some houses have secrets. And they'll do anything not to give them up. In her book, Małgorzata Strękowska-Zaremba brings up subjects that are difficult to both talk about and stay silent about. When Daniel meets Marysia – a strange little girl whose eyes shine like two mirrors – he senses at once that it'll be the beginning of an extraordinary story. His new friend, hidden in the bushes, watches the house over the road. It might seem like an ordinary – even quite boring – game, but Marysia takes her task deadly seriously. And what's more – she's terrified. And when the boy begins to investigate what has scared her so much, in this house – which seems identical to all the others – he uncovers things that are incomprehensible or purely sinister. Intrigued, he decides to help Marysia to solve the mystery. But will the otherworldly house reveal its secret?

**Małgorzata Strękowska-Zaremba** (1960) – writer, journalist, textbook author. She has published short stories and journalistic texts in many children's and young people's magazines. She received a special mention in the competition of the Polish Section of IBBY for her book *Bery, the Gangster and the Mountain of Trouble* in 2006, while in 2018 her book *The Otherworldly House* was chosen as the Best Children's Book of 2017 in the Empik Comma and Full Stop readers' poll. She has also been nominated for the 2016 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.



## **DISTINCTION**

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017

### **DOM NIE Z TEJ ZIEMI**

**Małgorzata Strękowska-Zaremba**

**Daniel de Latour**

Nasza Księgarnia

Warszawa 2017

140 x 192, 240 pages

ISBN 978-83-10-13080-8

Translation rights:

Nasza Księgarnia

[a.zielinska@nk.com.pl](mailto:a.zielinska@nk.com.pl)



**Daniel de Latour (1971)** – illustrator, graphic designer, musician. He has illustrated over a dozen children's books and school textbooks. His comic *The Pigeon Fancier* won an award in a competition organised by the Warsaw Uprising Museum. He works with magazines for children and adults.



*A dark mood of horror interweaves with moments of poetic calm, compelling psychological portraits of the protagonists and the wonderfully rendered world of children's fears. The trappings of fantasy let authors explore more deeply the subject of domestic violence, homes that change people and envelop the surrounding world in silence. It is a very engaging, intelligent dialogue with young readers.*

Professor Grzegorz Leszczyński, head of the Children's and Young Adult Literature Research Centre at the University of Warsaw

"Daniel had blue eyes and thick, fair hair. He was taller and older than Marysia. He very much wanted to look serious, but the dimples on his cheeks meant he more resembled a nursery child than a fifth-year student. Marysia didn't know if she could trust him. Up to then she'd coped by herself. She'd found an excellent vantage point from where she could observe that house across the street. She could see whom the house's door let in and whom it let out. Now that her hide-out had been discovered, Marysia had to do everything to make sure no one apart from Daniel found out about it. The boy didn't live in Radosna Street, so perhaps she wouldn't have to let him in on all the secrets. That's what she hoped.

"Are you tracking the house?" he asked incredulously. And laughed too loudly again.

"Stop it!" shouted Marysia, forgetting she should be whispering.

"Or what? The house will hear you and run off on you? I'd like to see that," Daniel was still laughing.

"You might see it one day!" she said without thinking and angrily pulled up the hood of her green top. Her furious heart beat like a drum on a parade.

"String Bean won't believe it when he hears you're tracking the house. How do you do it? Do you creep up behind it? Or maybe you're looking for clues?" Daniel was enjoying himself.

Who's "String Bean"? Marysia's heart begged for an answer and scrambled her thoughts.

Be quiet! she scolded it in her head.

"If I let you join my investigation you won't tell anyone?" she asked, trying to hide her anxiety.

"All right. But don't try making out it's about some house or other," he answered.

Marysia felt upset. She was telling the truth, after all. She was hiding in the bushes and spending all her time looking at the house opposite. But it wasn't just looking. It was an investigation too. Because that house was just as mysterious and evil as the witch's house that Hansel and Gretel went to, even though it wasn't made of gingerbread."

# Felix, Net and Nika (series)

The series of books for young people Felix, Net and Nika by Rafał Kosik has been on the Polish publishing market since 2004. Over that period, these novels about the adventures of a trio of Warsaw middle-school students has gained the enormous affection of readers (numerous fan clubs and blogs, with total sales figures in the hundreds of thousands of copies). The series is firmly set in contemporary reality, and the protagonists speak contemporary "young people's" language. Yet their various adventures feature not only ancient ghosts, but also modern AI software and mad inventions. Felix, Net and Nika solve mysteries, travel in time, construct bizarre devices, but also clash with middle-school reality: they fight a school gang extorting money, come up against the problem of drugs and experience their first, youthful emotions. Despite their breakneck pace, these books carry more important messages. Critics emphasise their unobtrusive didacticism, their appeal to knowledge, to Polish history and universal values like friendship, responsibility and decency. So it comes as no surprise that several titles from the series are on the list of school set books and have been made into films. Some of them have also been translated into Lithuanian, Hungarian and Czech.

**Rafał Kosik** (1971) – science-fiction writer, graphic designer and artist. He made his debut in 2001 with a short story published in the magazine *Nowa Fantastyka*. His greatest popularity came from 2004 to 2015 with the launch of his 14-volume series Felix, Net and Nika. It's published by Powergraph, which Rafał Kosik co-founded. As an author he writes what he'd like to read – sci-fi and horror and ideally a combination of the two. Describing reality as it is doesn't interest him.



**BESTSELLER – 800 000 COPIES SOLD**

**FELIX, NET I NIKAI (SERIES)**

**Rafał Kosik**

Wydawnictwo Powergraph

Warszawa 2004-2015

135 x 205, 376 pages

ISBN 978836438413-4 (1st part)

Translation rights:

Rafał Kosik, Wydawnictwo Powergraph

[kasia@powergraph.pl](mailto:kasia@powergraph.pl)

Rights sold to: Lithuania, Czech Republic, Hungary

"Felix and Nika jumped up and almost screamed at the feel of somebody's hands on their shoulders. They whirled around. Net was standing behind them. He was smiling, which meant he hadn't had a look into the toilet yet. (...)

"Why has Sylwester barricaded himself in?" he asked, adjusting his glasses. He couldn't understand their frightened faces. "What else could he have seen? Why aren't you saying anything?"

Nika shut the door with her foot.

"Come with me and you'll see for yourself," the voice of the maths teacher resounded from down below. (...) They pushed him backwards into the toilet and shut the door. The sundew looked at them. The word "look" wasn't quite accurate, because it didn't have any eyes, although in some way it could "see" its surroundings. "What are you doing?" Net began to be seriously worried. Behind him, the plant straightened up slightly. The professor waited, interested.

"Shall we put a tenner on this?" suggested Felix. "A tenner that you start screaming in the next sixty seconds." "Not a chance!" Net waved a hand. "Morten's defeated, the Gang of Invisible Men don't exist. What else can I be afraid of after an encounter with modular transformer robots?"

"Are you in?"

"Of course!" Net shook on the bet. "Why do you think I'll scream?"

"Remember that old British movie *The Day of the Triffids*?" Felix started the stopwatch in his phone.

"There was also a book."

"I remember the movie..." Net frowned. "About huge man-eating plants."

"And do you remember the tiger sundew?" asked Nika.

"Yeah, that tiny flower under a glass dome. It caught flies during our lessons with that smelly old bugger." Nika bit her lip and looked at the ceiling.

"I guess you don't want to pass botany," she muttered. Net thought about this and then began to suspect something. Net turned around and saw Butler, who wasn't that bothered by having just heard the unflattering description of himself. He was about to apologise when he noticed the sundew standing beside the teacher. He opened his eyes wide and uttered a quite shrill cry. Felix turned off the stopwatch and covered Net's mouth with a hand.

"Thirty-two seconds," he declared. "You owe me a tenner. And now shut up or you'll bring the whole school here. Will you be quiet?"

The sundew denied it vigorously, shaking its head and waving its upper leaves. The professor let out a sigh of relief. Net, meanwhile, was looking like somebody on vacation who's got accidentally mixed up in an outing for residents of a mental institution."

*Whenever you want you'll be drawn into their world! Just get comfortable and let Rafał Kosik take you there!*

Agnieszka Felde, gildia.pl

*Rafał Kosik's boundless imagination and linguistic inventiveness have made him one of the most popular Polish children's authors, and his ability to create literary worlds has won him fans among adult sci-fi readers.*

Łukasz Dębski, co-creator of the Children's Literature Festival

# The King

After his father's company goes bankrupt and they lose their house, Patryk unexpectedly ends up in temporary housing in a shabby, two-storey block. Unlike his mother, he quickly adapts to life in "Brooklyn" as the kids on the estate call the block. He forgets about his old life – about its good sides, its luxuries and the friends who disappeared along with it. During the school holidays in a grey, concrete yard, Patryk meets Celestyn – a homeless man who becomes his mentor and from whom he learns how to get by in his new environment. A warm and moving novel about the power of friendship, how you can't judge people by appearances and not everything is as it seems at first sight.

**Katarzyna Ryrych** (1959) – writer, poet, teacher and painter. Her short story *Seven Owl Feathers* was nominated in 2008 for the Book of the Year award of the Polish Section of IBBY. She's a two-time winner of Astrid Lindgren Literary Competition. Her novel *On Stephen Hawking* was made the List of Treasures of the Museum of Children's Books and the international IBBY list of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities. She received an honourable mention for the book *The King* in the Book of the Year competition of the Polish Section of IBBY.



## **DISTINCTION**

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2015

## **KRÓL**

**Katarzyna Ryrych**

Wydawnictwo Literatura

Łódź 2015

150 x 210, 150 pages

ISBN 978-83-7672-405-8

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Literatura

redakcja@wydawnictwoliteratura.pl



"That summer Celestyn was everything to me. A god, a friend and a king in a paper crown.

Sitting with him on a bench, I hung on his every word.

Life turned into a story I could never even have dreamed of. It had two main characters: me and Celestyn. Brooklyn became a country where miracles happened every day.

Like the day Celestyn brought a wire brush and made me clean my bike. I worked so hard and long scraping the rust and old paint off I got blisters on my hands. All that time, Celestyn was looking through a newspaper, reading me interesting bits. (...)

We went back to the park. Celestyn inspected my bike, got rid of the scraps of old paint and took two containers out of his backpack. Then he removed the wheels, chain and saddle and rested the frame on some stones so it wouldn't fall over.

"Now pay attention," he said. "Hocus-pocus."

Before long the frame was shining in the sun like it was made of solid gold. I was delighted. When the paint dried, Celestyn repeated the operation. (...)

The next day Celestyn fastened a large mirror near the handlebars so I could see what was behind me. And the next day I got a bell. The bell was simply the best thing in the world. It was so big I could barely cover it with my hand and it rang so loud you could wake the dead with it. That's what Celestyn said.

"Hear that?" he asked, ringing the bell. "It could wake the dead. That's how a bell should be. A bell is so people can get out of your way."

So people can get out of my way! Me, a punk kid from Brooklyn. I really felt like Somebody. I rode around the paths and ran my bell and one of the mothers walking with her children called me out for making a racket. (...)

I rode home, ringing loudly and watching what was happening behind me. The bike that was stolen hadn't had a mirror and its bell had been so weak you could hardly hear it.

I waited in the kitchen for my mother and drew a comic strip. Actually, I'd been drawing since the day I met Celestyn. In the comic Celestyn was a witcher and I was his pupil, but suddenly it seemed boring and ridiculous to me.

I tore a new page from the pad and drew Brooklyn, the rubbish bin and rats the size of cats. Next to them I drew a guy with a paper crown and a boy on a bike.

Now I had to think up a title. The Witcher's Pupil had been alright for that story, but I actually suddenly stopped imagining bloodthirsty dragons and devious wyverns. Was I still the same boy who'd declared to rock singers, soldiers and a lawyer that I wanted to become a witcher?

I went to the bathroom and looked in the mirror. I hadn't changed at all, perhaps my hair had grown a bit and my face was tanned from the sun. Yet inside I was someone completely different."

*The boy and the beggar wandering through the park talk about everything that gives sense to human existence, about everyday heroism, wealth, poverty, friendship... This book lingers in the memory, it won't let you forget it.*

Professor Grzegorz Leszczyński, head of the Children's and Young Adult Literature Research Centre at the University of Warsaw

*I'd like this title to enter the canon of set books and for middle schools to discuss it.*

Katarzyna Wasilkowska,  
author of children's books

# The Black Lakes

Magda is trying to understand what life's really all about. This girl with a talent for writing begins to keep a diary and looks for answers to the questions she's afraid to ask. Her relationship with her mother is growing more and more fraught. And her communication with her stepfather – whose good sense and composure she always used to appreciate – is getting worse and worse. At school, things aren't so brilliant either. The only time Magda can catch her breath is at meetings of the Literary Club. She feels at home among its peculiar members. And on top of that it's run by her favourite writer. But the need to confront her mother and face a truth that's been hidden for years is getting harder to ignore...

**Dorota Suwalska** – writer, cultural organiser, illustrator, journalist, screenwriter. She has written three volumes of poetry and novels for children and young people, including: *You're Fibbing Again*, *Zużka*; *Zużka Online and IRL*; *Bruno and his Sisters*; *The Freckled Sky*; *The Black Lakes*; *Ivo from Boring Land* and *A Gallery of Polish Kings and Princes*. She was nominated for the 2014 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Her books have been translated into Spanish, Catalan, Slovenian and Ukrainian.



## **DISTINCTION**

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016

### **CZARNE JEZIORA**

**Dorota Suwalska**

Nasza Księgarnia  
Warszawa 2016  
135 x 204, 336 pages  
ISBN 978-83-10-12859-1

Translation rights:  
Nasza Księgarnia  
[a.zielinska@nk.com.pl](mailto:a.zielinska@nk.com.pl)

"Monday, 18 August

(...)

Getting back to the subject – that rainy afternoon (I mean yesterday) I was working on *The Aliens* and reflected on the complicated links between “existential pain” (my mother’s favourite expression), which I’d recently been experiencing, and the inner conflicts (external ones too) of the book’s main character. Generally speaking, I was feeling pretty down. I don’t know why. Nothing had actually happened. Nothing that could explain my state. Sometimes that’s just how I am. All of a sudden, dark thoughts are attacking me – moods, actually – because if it was thoughts, I’d be able to drag them out of that black magma, examine them and do something about them, “conduct” (to put it nicely) some sort of inspection, edit their content. But instead – nothing. Nothing concrete. Just an anxiety that appears from somewhere, and I can’t get to the cause, despite large-scale personal archaeological excavations. I probably hoped *The Aliens* would help me free myself from this extremely crappy mood... The ancients described the phenomenon of catharsis and – speaking from experience – it’s not just a theory. Occasionally it really works. But not this time, unfortunately.

A knock at the door tore me from the abyss of inner gloom. Theoretically that should have made me happy. But it didn’t. It just annoyed me.

“Yes?” I asked in a voice that definitely didn’t sound like an invitation.

The door opened and Krzysztof’s slightly embarrassed face appeared.

As I’ve already mentioned, Krzysztof is my mother’s husband and my little brother’s dad. He’s not my real father (which would have been quite difficult in practice anyway because he’s only 14 years older than me), so I call him by his first name, which not everybody likes. But I have to admit he’s a really cool guy – I’ve got no idea how my mother managed to get hold of such a great bloke. But sometimes he really pisses me off, it’s because of that coolness, which he tries to insert wherever he can (and where he can’t), where it’s necessary and where it only gets in the way, especially the latter.

This time I wasn’t overjoyed by the sight of his jubilant face, either. “Sorry, I don’t mean to disturb,” he apologised, seeing the expression on my face, “But... I’ve got... uh...

Something here...”

Rather than finish he handed me a pretty amateurishly designed flyer that turned out to be advertising courses at the local community centre.

I looked at him with an expression that said: Do I give a shit about some stupid course at some pathetic community centre?”

*The Black Lakes is an important story. It helps readers understand what young people go through in situations that adults find hard to cope with. As a preventative practitioner I hope it leaves a little knowledge in readers’ heads concerning HIV issues.*

Tomasz Małkuszewski,  
head of the Social AIDS Committee

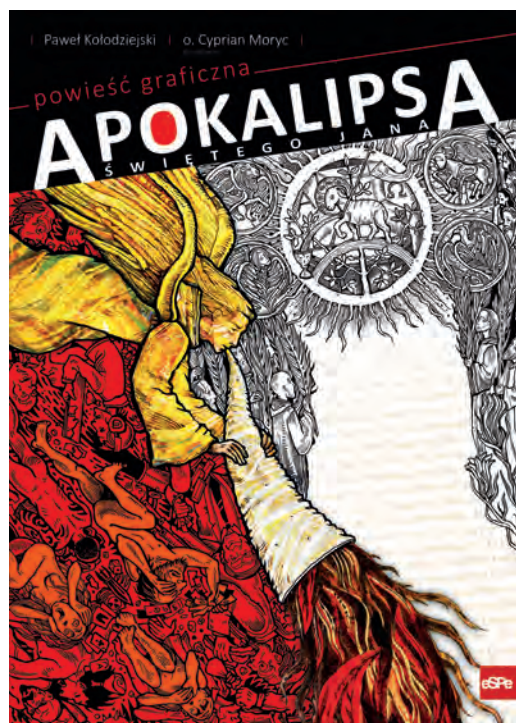
*A computer diary reveals the everyday life of a high-school student: school, home, conflicts, joys, books. Yet Suwalska’s heroine isn’t an ordinary teenager – she’s been HIV-positive since birth. It’s a novel about an ordinary life – but with emotional baggage – written economically, without pathos or hyperbole, in language familiar to contemporary young people.*

Anna Maria Czernow,  
President of the Polish Section of IBBY

# The Revelation of St John the Divine – a Graphic Novel

Why is it worth reading the Book of Revelation in the form of a graphic novel? Because Paweł Kołodziejski's drawings render the uniqueness of these monumental images: their fantastic, elemental and rapidly changing progression. The graphic form makes St John's evocative vision tangible and concrete. It lets readers take in the meaning of the Book of Revelation at a more profound level than the intellectual decoding of esoteric symbols. It arouses in them a passion for meditation, prayer and living the text of St John's revelation.

**Paweł Kołodziejski** – a graduate of Kraków Academy of Fine Arts, creator of the polychrome *New Jerusalem* in St Clement's church in Trzemeszka and the polychrome *The Franciscan Brothers* in the Bernardine refectory in Kraków. He has also made stained-glass windows for a chapel in Poręba. He is a book illustrator and comic artist.

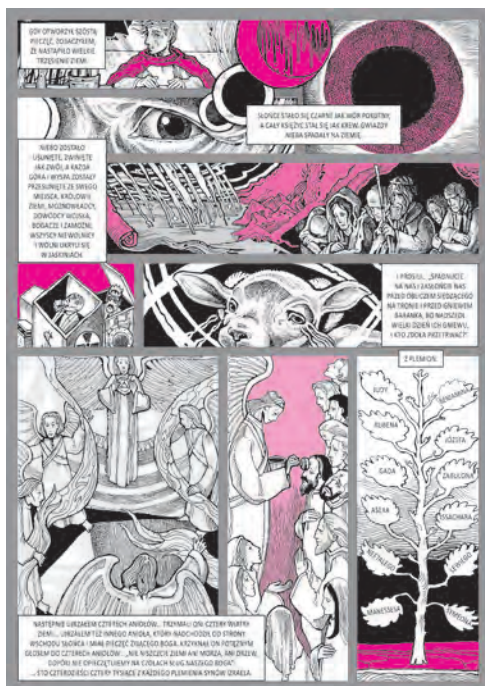
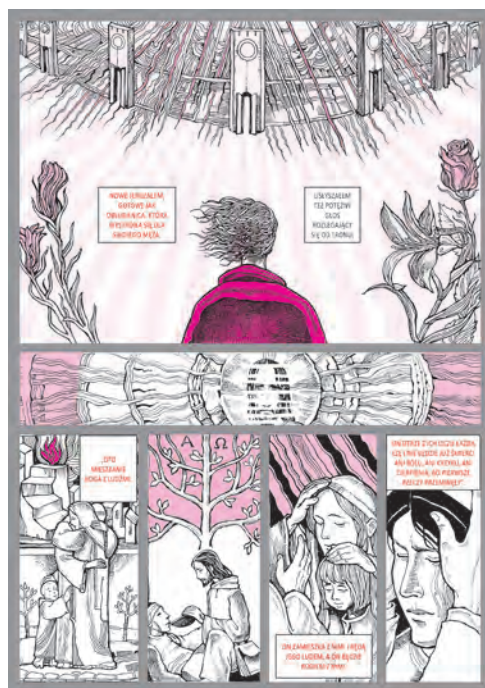


**APOKALIPSA ŚWIĘTEGO JANA.  
POWIEŚĆ GRAFICZNA  
Paweł Kołodziejski**

Wydawnictwo eSPe  
Kraków 2017  
210 x 297, 80 pages  
ISBN 978-83-7482-796-6

Translation rights:  
Wydawnictwo eSPe  
[ksiegarnia@boskieksiazki.pl](mailto:ksiegarnia@boskieksiazki.pl)





*Is it possible to sketch what can't be sketched? Is a graphic designer helpless in the face of prophetic visions which have sent shivers down people's spines for two thousand years? The excellent duo of Fr. Cyprian Moryc and Paweł Kołodziejski have attempted just that. The effect is amazing!*

Marcin Jakimowicz, journalist

*An engrossing and moving vision!*

Elżbieta Wiater, aleteia.pl

# 5 seconds to Io

The action of this novel by well-known and esteemed writer, Małgorzata Warda, is set in two planes – in real life and in a game that the sixteen-year-old female protagonist enters. A shooting occurs in Mika's school that has tragic consequences. She alone saw the shooter. It turns out that the drama at the school might be linked to a controversial and mysterious video game – created using the latest technology – where players not only feel the temperature, smells and tastes of their surroundings, but pain. They can even experience their own death. At the request of the police, Mika enters the virtual world, set on the volcanic moon Io. Will she also fall into the trap of this fiendishly dangerous game? What threats come from video game marathons? How dangerous is online anonymity? What problems do children living in foster families or residential homes face? Teenage readers will find fast-paced action, compelling characters and thought-provoking scenarios.

**Małgorzata Warda** – writer, painter and sculptor, the winner of the IBBY award 2015 for Best Young Adult Book for the novel *5 seconds to Io*. Twice nominated for the main award of the Festival of Women's Literature, in 2013 she won the award for a novel about exclusion. Her published works include: *No One Saw, No One Heard*; *The Little Girl Who Saw Too Much* and *The City of Ice*. She has also written lyrics for songs by the band Farba.



## AWARD

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2015

## PIĘĆ SEKUND DO IO Małgorzata Warda

Wydawnictwo Media Rodzina  
Poznań 2015

135 x 205, 344 pages  
ISBN 978-83-8008-043-0

Translation rights:  
Małgorzata Warda  
[joanna.nowakowska@mediarodzina.pl](mailto:joanna.nowakowska@mediarodzina.pl)

"Almost two weeks after the events in the school Czapliński invited me to talk to him again. He opened up a file on the table, anticipating my questions.

"They're kids. Some of them haven't even finished middle school. Others are at high school. There are over a dozen teenagers' names on the wanted list, but I've only printed out five for you. The families have been looking for them for months."

I pick up the printout and examine the familiar faces from the corkboard in his office.

"Why are you showing them to me?" I ask in surprise.

"Because we've been looking for some time for a person who knows how to navigate the world of video games. We need a young person who'll get through a game that's very easy to lose. Actually, I hadn't thought of you, Mika, but my superior had heard about that competition where you met Sebastian and asked me to make you an offer."

I hold the photographs for a while longer. Finally, I put them down on the table and look anxiously at Czapliński.

"What kind of offer? You want me to play for you? Play what? Since when did the police recruit gamers?"

Czapliński's mouth is twitching but he maintains his composure.

"You're young and know the world of teenagers," he says. "Apart from that you're a policeman's daughter." He smiles a bit sadly at that recollection. "The ideal candidate! If you agree I'll have to take you out of the home, away from journalists and the police, because what I'm asking for is a secret operation."

Fascinated, now I can't take my eyes off him.

"You aren't joking, are you?" I say, testing him.

He shakes his head.

"I'm making you a real offer, Mika."

"Would I move away?" I can't conceal my relief.

From the moment I left the hospital I haven't dreamed about anything else but getting out of Warsaw.

I involuntarily bring my hands together on my knees and being to pick at the skin around my nails.

"Where would you take me?" I ask, feigning indifference.

"I'd place you with a woman who works with us, in a seaside town. You'd be given new documents, a new name. I know how this sounds, but..."

"You want to change my identity? Why? Is it that serious?" I smile again, now in disbelief.

But Czapliński is deadly serious. He touches the printout and looks me in the eye."

*The author doesn't try to be a mentor, doesn't wag her finger at readers, doesn't invite them to a class discussion. Instead, she lets readers observe the unfolding actions of her protagonists and independently analyse the meaning of the opinions they're expressing. They can join the heroine in trying to solve mystery after mystery.*

Weronika Kostecka, "Nowe Książki"

# Keys

How many times can you experience the end of the world? Adam is a teenager and has experienced it three times. His father leaving unexpectedly, a certain accident... Then things were fairly OK. He might even call himself a lucky guy, but generally a high schooler's life isn't easy. His mother doesn't let up on him. He's sometimes ashamed to admit it to his mates. At school he can't escape from Domańczyk (kind of a cool history teacher, but he's got it in for Adam and that's that). And Madziarska... he'd like her to once not have time for him or go to a party and not take him along. Not a chance! But there are also brighter sides of life – Paulina, his Polish teacher... *Keys* is the first Polish novel to talk so openly about contemporary young people, written from the point of view of a teenage boy.

**Adam Lang** – is the pen name of the author of the YA novels: *Keys*, *The Award for Consolation* and *The String*. He's a mathematician who worked for ten years as a maths teacher in a Warsaw high school. *Keys* was nominated for the 2015 Book of the Year award of the Polish Section of IBBY.



## NOMINATION

IN THE COMPETITION OF THE POLISH  
SECTION OF IBBY FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR 2015

## KLUCZE

**Adam Lang**

Wydawnictwo Literackie

Kraków 2015

145 x 207, 304 pages

ISBN: 978-83-08-06004-9

Translation rights:

Wydawnictwo Literackie

[j.dabrowska@wydawnictwoliterackie.pl](mailto:j.dabrowska@wydawnictwoliterackie.pl)



"Zachary is a person who likes to think of himself as an incredibly smart avant-garde nonconformist. He also likes to think that girls are interested in him because he's not bad looking and that he's generally superior to me. That really gives him a buzz: being better. "If I simply chose to..." and here you can insert something like "I'd be better than you". He's already been to university, he had a scholarship. This guy adores fantasising about his own intellectual abilities and completely disregards reality. In reality, he's got average intelligence, he just has a good memory and exploits that. Girls treat him like dirt because he's fat. If you're fat, you never have any luck – simple as that. (...)

Last Saturday, Zachary threw a party at his aunt's flat. (...)

He invited the entire class and all his mates – which is the three people he knows. I knew at once it would fail. I was even wondering about taking Madziarska, but in the end I didn't tell her anything. She's from another planet and I don't like mixing my groups of friends. It's either her or my class. Connecting people who don't know each other has boring results. I arrived first, because we were meant to get the place ready for the party. Then Kogut showed up (his father's a lawyer and only stops by the house to sleep for eight hours. Kogut also wants to be a lawyer. I think he must be sick), Marcin (his father's work took him to Brussels and he hasn't been seen since, and that was two years ago) and Pyrzyński. Pyrzyński's father is a mediocre, hammy actor. Turn on the lamest daytime soap and you're sure to see him. We all take the piss out of Pyrzyński. There were also two of Zachary's cousins. (...)

Pyrzyński's elder sister, knowing that her little brother was abandoning ship for half the night, invited some of her mates for a girls' night in. We discussed it for a while and in the end Pyrzyński called her. (...)

It's incredible how much noise six girls can make. There was a racket in the hall like there were forty of them. We stood in the doorway to the living room and stared. Two of them were in a decent league, and one – in a blue batwing top or jumper – premiership. Ever seen a billboard advert for a gym? I'll skip the guy, but there's always a girl in barely there fitness gear with a body Michelangelo might have sculpted. The one in the blue looked just like that. I saw her sizing us up and guess who she was looking at longest?"

*Keys is a rare debut that you essentially can't find fault with. It's an excellent novel, both for young people and for slightly older readers.*

Magdalena Majcher,

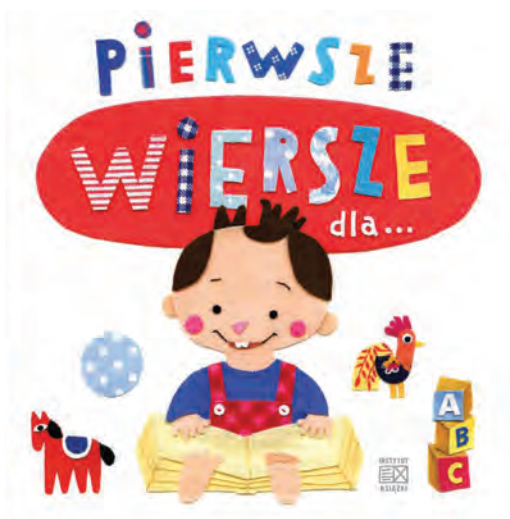
[przeglad-czytelniczy.blogspot.com](http://przeglad-czytelniczy.blogspot.com)

# **The Small Book – Big Person**

The Polish Book Institute's Small Book – Big Person campaign reminds us of the benefits of reading together as a family right from the first months of a child's life. It has been devised to complement the Poland-wide Connected By Books campaign, in which young parents in maternity wards receive a unique "Reading Pack".

We believe that reading begins from the cradle, long before children begin to independently put letters together. Well-chosen books develop their minds and emotions, shape their linguistic competence, root them in culture and stimulate their imagination.

The Reading Pack consists of a selection of poems for children entitled: ".....'s first poems" by celebrated Polish poets including: Jan Brzechwa, Julian Tuwim, Wanda Chotomska, Joanna Papużyńska and Józef Czechowicz beautifully illustrated by husband-and-wife team Ewa Kozyra-Pawlak and Paweł Pawlak. And the brochure Connected by Books: the Role of Books in Children's Lives, aimed at parents and showing the incalculable role of reading in a child's development.





### Lato

Danuta Wawilow

Daj mi rękę, mamusiu,  
pójdziemy na rosę!  
Trawa będzie zielona,  
my będziemy bosi.  
Drzewa będą zielone,  
góry będą zielone,  
chmury będą zielone,  
wielkie i puchate!  
Domy będą zielone,  
dymy będą zielone...  
Wiesz, dlaczego zielone?  
Bo to będzie lato!

We want to convince parents that reading together can become not just a great pleasure, but above all a wonderful opportunity to build intimacy and strong and lasting family connections. When parents read to their children they influence their future and help them to achieve success. Thus far, ninety thousand Reading Packs have been given out under the Connected by Books campaign. It will continue into 2018.

The Small Book – Big Person initiative was funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage as part of the National Programme of Reading Development.



### Kotek

Julian Tuwim

Miauczy kotek: miau!  
– Co ty, kotku, miał?  
– Miałem ja miseczkę mleczka,  
Teraz pusta jest miseczka,  
A jeszcze bym chciał.

Wzdycha kotek: oi!  
– Co ci, kotku, co?  
– Śniła mi się wielka rzeka,  
Wielka rzeka, pełna mleka  
Aż po samo dno.

Pisnął kotek: pii...  
– Pij, koteczku, pij!  
Skulił ogon, zmrugał ślupie,  
Śpi – fwe śnie mleczko chlipie,  
Bo znów mu się śni.

# Publishers' addresses

## WYDAWNICTWO ADAMADA

al. Grunwaldzka 411  
80-309 Gdańsk  
T: +48 58 764 62 86  
T: +48 58 764 61 22  
mankiewicz@adamada.pl  
jswerpel@adamada.pl  
www.adamada.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO BAJKA

ul. Angorska 27 lok. 1  
03-913 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 740 42 51  
p.krolikowski@bajkizbajki.pl  
www.bajkizbajki.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO CZERWONY KONIK

ul. Siarczanogórska 26d  
30-698 Kraków  
T: +48 509 471 573  
wydawnictwo@czerwonykonik.pl  
www.czerwonykonik.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO DWIE SIOSTRY

al. 3 Maja 2 m. 183  
00-391 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 618 25 30  
jadzia@wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl  
www.wydawnictwodwiesiostry.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO EGMONT POLSKA

ul. Dzielna 60  
01-029 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 838 41 00  
maria.deskur@egmont.pl  
www.wydawnictwoegmont.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO ESPE

ul. Meissnera 20  
31-457 Kraków

T: +48 12 413 19 21  
ksiegarnia@boskieksiazki.pl  
www.boskieksiazki.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO KLINIKA JĘZYKA

ul. Sokolnicza 8  
05-825 Grodzisk Mazowiecki  
T: +48 515 26 87 84  
klinikajezyka@gmail.com  
www.basnjakniedzwiedz.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO KULTURA GNIEWU

szymon@kultura.com.pl  
www.kultura.com.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO LINIA

ul. B. Prusa 23  
05-850 Ożarów Mazowiecki  
T: +48 784 007 480  
bialaplama@wydawnictwolinia.pl  
duze.sprawy@gmail.com  
www.wydawnictwolinia.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO LITERACKIE

ul. Długa 1  
31-147 Kraków  
T: +48 12 619 27 62  
j.dabrowska@wydawnictwoliterackie.pl  
www.wydawnictwoliterackie.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO LITERATURA

ul. Srebrna 41  
91-334 Łódź  
T: +48 42 630 23 81  
redakcja@wydawnictwoliteratura.pl  
www.wyd-literatura.com.pl

## WYDAWNICTWO MEDIA RODZINA

ul. Pasieka 24  
61-657 Poznań

T: +48 61 827 08 60  
joanna.nowakowska@mediarodzina.pl  
www.mediarodzina.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO MUCHOMOR**

ul. Wąchocka 11/13 m 1  
03-934 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 839 49 68  
askowronska@muchomor.pl  
www.muchomor.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO NASZA KSIĘGARNIA**

ul. Sarabandy 24c  
02-868 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 643 93 89  
a.zielinska@nk.com.pl  
www.nk.com.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO PORADNIA K**

ul. Wilcza 25 lok. 6  
00-544 Warszawa  
T: +48 507 008 880  
k.jaszecka@poczta.fm  
www.sklep.poradniak.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO POWERGRAPH**

ul. Ceglowska 16/2  
01-803 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 8341825  
kasia@powergraph.pl  
www.powergraph.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO ŚWIĘTY WOJCIECH**

ul. Chartowo 5  
61-245 Poznań  
T: +48 61 659 37 00  
sklep@swietywojciech.pl  
www.swietywojciech.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO TASHKA**

ul. Niekłańska 35

03-924 Warszawa  
T: +48 602 75 17 18  
tashka@tashka.pl  
www.tashka.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO WARSTWY**

Przejście Garncarskie 2  
50-107 Wrocław  
T: +48 71 721 53 10  
k.janusik@domliteratury.wroc.pl  
www.wydawnictwowarstwy.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO WIDNOKRĄG**

ul. Jana Matejki 14  
05-501 Piaseczno  
T: +48 602 272 129  
k.wegierek@wydawnictwo-widnokrag.pl  
www.wydawnictwo-widnokrag.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO WILGA**

##### **(GRUPA WYDAWNICZA FOKSAL)**

ul. Domaniewska 48  
02-672 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 826 08 82  
Blanka.Woskowiak@gwfoksal.pl  
www.gwfoksal.pl

#### **WYDAWNICTWO ZIELONA SOWA**

Al. Jerozolimskie 94  
00-807 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 379 85 78  
anna.piasecka@zielonasowa.pl  
www.zielonasowa.pl



# The Polish Book Institute

The Polish Book Institute is a national institution established by the Polish Ministry of Culture. It has been running in Cracow since January 2004.

The Institute's basic aims are to influence the reading public and to popularise books and reading within Poland, as well as to promote Polish literature worldwide. These aims are accomplished by:

- promoting the best Polish books and their authors;
- organising study visits for translators and foreign publishers;
- increasing the number of translations from Polish into foreign languages, with the help of the ©POLAND Translation Programme and Sample Translations ©POLAND;
- making information on Polish books and the Polish publishing market accessible to foreign consumers.

The Institute organises literary programmes to promote Polish books at international book fairs, appearances by Polish writers at literary festivals, and within the scope of programmes designed to promote Polish culture worldwide, it publishes catalogues of "New Books from Poland".

The Polish Book Institute is also the publisher of nine major cultural journals covering mainly literature and theatre (*Akcent*, *Dialog*, *Literatura na świecie*, *Novaya Polsha*, *Nowe Książki*, *Odra*, *Teatr*, *Teatr Lalek*, and *Twórczość*).



## THE POLISH BOOK INSTITUTE

ul. Zygmunta Wróblewskiego 6  
31-148 Kraków  
T: (+48) 12 61 71 900  
F: (+48) 12 62 37 682  
office@bookinstitute.pl  
www.bookinstitute.pl

## WARSAW SECTION

Pałac Kultury i Nauki  
Pl. Defilad 1, IX piętro, pok. 911  
00-901 Warszawa  
T: +48 22 656 69 86  
F: +48 22 656 63 89  
warszawa@instytutksiazki.pl  
Warszawa 134, P.O. Box 39

## SELECTED POLISH BOOK INSTITUTE PROGRAMMES:

- **The Translator's College** is a Book Institute program that hosts a group of translators in Krakow every year, providing them an environment for working on translations, as well as meeting with authors and experts. The college has been operating since 2006. By 2017, over one hundred translators from thirty-four countries had come to Krakow to participate.
- **The World Congress of Translators of Polish Literature**, which is organized every four years, is the largest event of its kind. To date, there have been four Congresses, each attended by around two hundred and fifty translators from every continent. Over the course of several days, there are meetings with writers, critics, scholars, and various other experts. This truly unique event offers a wonderful opportunity for leading professionals to exchange information, ideas, and opinions.
- **The Found in Translation Award** is given to the translator(s) of the finest book-length translation of Polish literature into English. The winner receives a prize of 16,000 zloty and a three-month, sponsored

residency in Krakow. We have been presenting this award on an annual basis since 2008.

- **The Transatlantyk Award** is presented every year by the Book Institute to an outstanding ambassador of Polish literature abroad. The winner might be a translator, a publisher, a critic, or someone who organizes cultural events. The award was first presented in 2005 during the Congress of Translators of Polish Literature. The winner receives 10,000 euros, a commemorative diploma, and a statuette crafted by Łukasz Kieferling.

- **Seminars for Foreign Publishers** - for the past seven years the Book Institute has been inviting groups of publishers from various countries to Krakow in order to show them what Polish literature has to offer. We arrange meetings with writers, publishers, and critics - encouraging our guests to publish Polish literature. Six seminars have been held to date.

- **Sample Translations ©Poland** - the purpose of this programme, aimed at translators of Polish literature, is to promote Polish literature abroad by encouraging translators to present Polish books to foreign publishers. The programme may cover up to 20 pages of the translation. The translator must have published a minimum of one translation in book form before making an application.

- **The ©POLAND Translation Programme** aims to promote Polish literature abroad. The Book Institute financially supports Polish and foreign publishers who would like to publish works of Polish literature outside Poland in foreign-language translations.

Since 1999, the ©POLAND Translation Programme has provided over 2,200 grants for translations into 58 different languages published in 58 countries. The average grant was worth 10,000 zlotys (approx. € 2,500).

The Book Institute can help cover the costs of publishing the following types of works:

- literature - prose, poetry, and dramas;
- works in the humanities, broadly conceived, whether older or contemporary (with particular regard for books devoted to the culture and literature of Poland);
- non-fiction literature (literary reportage, biographies, memoirs, essays);
- historical works (essays and popular history, barring specialist and academic works);
- literature for children and young people;
- comics.

The financial contribution of the Book Institute is designed to support the following publication costs:

- translation;
- copyright license;
- printing.

Full information on our programmes, including a list of grants awarded to date and a funding application form can be found on the Book Institute's website:

[www.bookinstitute.pl](http://www.bookinstitute.pl)

For further information please contact: Ewa Wojciechowska,  
[e.wojciechowska@bookinstitute.pl](mailto:e.wojciechowska@bookinstitute.pl)

# Photos

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