PICTURE BOOKS 2
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ASLAUG JONSDOTTIR
TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

ASLAUG JONSDOTTIR (b.1963) received The Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize for her work as illustrator in 2000, and was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award same year. Her illustrations have been selected for the IBBY Honor List: Children’s Verses with text by Bodvar Gudmundsson in 2004 and The Story of the Blue Planet with text by Andri Snaer Magnason in 2002, for which she received the West-Nordic Children’s Book Prize along with the author.

I Want Fish
Ég vil fisk, 2007

Unnur knows what she wants. She wants FISH! Mum and Dad think they know what Unnur wants and bring her all kinds of fish, but not the right one. I Want Fish is a lively, fun book for kids who know what they want!
Good Evening
Gott kvöld, 2005

When dad pops out to collect mom, a boy is left alone at home, in the sole company of his defenceless teddy bear. But reassuring a teddy bear is easier said than done, especially when it comes to overcoming his fear of being plagued by unwanted guests, such as the Brat, the Scary Goblin, the Time Thief, the Nasty Dog and countless other strange creatures. Aslaug Jónsdottir’s writing and drawings bring her hilarious characters to life and take the reader on a wonderful memorable journey. The play based on the book received the Icelandic theatre awards Griman for the best children’s play in 2008.

- The Bookseller’s Prize as the Best Children’s Book of 2005
- The Icelandic Illustration Award
- The Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize
- Nominated for the Nordic Children’s Book Award

The Egg
Eggið, 2003

One stormy night the egg falls out of its nest and rolls away. It narrowly escapes the clutches of a wild cat, tango dancers and a chef, and faces many other mishaps before the shell finally cracks open and the young bird takes to the sky. An original and exciting story, beautifully illustrated.

- Selected and listed on White Ravens: Special mention 2004, at the International Youth Library (IYL), in Munich, Germany
Monster Squabbles
Skrímslaerjur, 2012

The monsters are bored. They can’t agree on what to do. What is it like for a monster in large shoes to hopscotch? In the heat of the moment harsh words are exchanged and even the gentlest of monsters lose their temper.

Monster at the Top
Skrímsli á toppnum, 2010

RAKEL HELMSDAL lives in Tórshavn in the Faroe Islands. She is an author of children’s books, plays and short stories.

KALLE GÜETTLER lives in Häverö in the Uppland province in Sweden. Kalle is an author of fiction for children and teenagers, as well as textbooks and educational material.

This delightful series is written in partnership between three authors from Iceland, Sweden and the Faroe Islands. It has produced seven popular award-winning books, all of which focus on human relations and situations which all children face at some time.
Monster Visit
Skrímsli í heimsókn, 2009

Sold to:
Sweden (Kabusa); Faroe Islands (Bókadeildin); Denmark (Torgard); China (Maitian Culture)
English translation available

Monster Flu
Skrímslapest, 2008

Sold to:
Sweden (Kabusa); Faroe Islands (Bókadeildin); Denmark (Torgard); France (Circonflexe/Millepages); Norway (Skald)
English and Spanish translation available

Monster in the Dark
Skrímsli í myrkrinu, 2007

Sold to:
Sweden (Bonnier Carlsen); Faroe Islands (Bókadeildin); Denmark (Torgard); France (Circonflexe/Millepages); China (Maitian Culture); Norway (Skald)
English, Spanish and German translations available

Big Monsters Don’t Cry
Stór skrímsli gráta ekki, 2006

- The Children’s Book Award from the Reykjavik Council of Education
- Nominated to Le prix des Incorruptibles, France

Sold to:
Sweden (Bonnier Carlsen); Faroe Islands (Bókadeildin); Denmark (Forlaget Torgard); Spain, Andorra, South America, USA (Random House/Beascoa); France (Circonflexe/Millepages); Norway (Skald; China (Maitian Culture)
English translation available

No! Said the Little Monster
Nei! Sagði litla skrímslið, 2004

- The Icelandic Illustration Award

Sold to:
Sweden (Bonnier Carlsen); Faroe Islands (Bókadeildin); Denmark (Carlsen); Finland (Kustannus oy Pieni Karhu); Spain, Andorra, South America, USA (Random House/Beascoa); France (Circonflexe/Millepages); Finland (Pieni Karhu); Norway (Skald; China (Maitian Culture)
English translation available

2–6 years

PICTURE BOOKS

PICTURE BOOK, HARDCOVER
30 pp, 15,5 x 29,5 cm
BJORK BJARKADOTTIR TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

BJORK BJARKADOTTIR (b.1971) received special recognition from the IBBY in the spring of 2006 for her contribution to children’s culture, as well as The Icelandic illustration Award the same year for her book Granny Goes on Summer Holiday. [www.basta.no](http://www.basta.no)

Darling Dad
Elsku besti pabbi, 2008

Dad is number one on Emilia’s list. She has the best dad in the entire world, as funny as a clown, as lithe as a monkey and as strong as a bear. But when dad gets ill, Emilia has to act responsibly and do her bit to help him get well again quickly. *Darling Dad* is a companion volume to the popular *Mom is Best*. The short and simple text is brought to life by the lively and inspired illustrations which make an instant hit with children.

Mom is Best
Mamma er best, 2005

Tommy likes sitting in his mom’s lap. But when mom develops a balloon belly there’s hardly any room for him anymore. This makes him wonder if another type of mom might not be better. Maybe an elephant mom or a fish mom or even a flying dragon mom? But in the end Tommy comes to realise that his own mom is best.
Supergranny and the Pirates

Súperamma og sjóráningjarnir, 2009

Granny is getting a bit strange. She dresses herself up in front of the mirror and has her policeman friend round to visit just when she and Oli had been about to watch a crime program. But when the transceiver bleeps and the police need Supergranny’s help, she returns to normal. Oli and policeman Bert get to tag along, but only Granny knows what to do when the pirate ship heads for shore.
Granny Goes on Summer Holiday
Amma fer í sumarfrí, 2006
Granny and Oli go for a holiday on the beach. But there is something fishy going on, and Granny and Oli get sucked into an exciting hunt for a pickpocket. An entertaining and sparkling story for all aspiring spies, the third book in the Granny and Oli series.
- The Icelandic Illustration Award 2006

Granny’s Secret
Leyndarmálið hennar ömmu, 2003
Oli’s grandmother is a Supergranny who flies about at night capturing thugs and thieves. Once in a while Oli gets to go with her, and that’s when the fun begins! Bjork Bjarkadottir presents the stories of Oli and his Supergranny in enchanting text and delightful illustrations.

Granny and the Thief in the Gallery
Amma og þjófurinn í safninu, 2004
Granny is starting to resemble an ordinary granny, baking, knitting and making quilts. But one night she hears that the police think thieves are going to steal a priceless painting from the art museum. She decides to help them and, needless to say, Oli comes with her. Another exciting adventure for Oli and Supergranny.
THORGUNNUR ODDSĐOTTIR
TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

THORGUNNUR ODDSĐOTTIR was born in 1981. She currently studies at the Icelandic Academy of the Arts. This is her first book.

Timmy and the Toilet Monster
Kári litli og klósettskrímslið, 2009

Timmy is a brave little boy. There is only one thing that frightens him. THE TOILET MONSTER! And one night he wakes up and needs to pee ... Timmy and the Toilet Monster is an ingenious story for any child who sometimes has to go to the toilet.

HALLGRIMUR HELGASON
TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

HALLGRIMUR HELGASON (b.1959) is a writer and artist, one of Iceland’s most popular authors. His novel 101 Reykjavik was nominated for the Nordic Council Literary Prize and he received the Icelandic Literary Prize for The Author of Iceland. This is his first book for children. www.hallgrimur.is

The Lady Who Kissed too Much
Konan sem kyssti of mikið, 2009

Everything the kissing lady kisses floats up into the sky – her husband, her children, her house and finally herself. What’s to be done? The Lady Who Kissed too Much is a love story for children of all ages.
BERGLJOT ARNALDS

TEXT

BERGLJOT ARNALDS (b.1968) has received numerous awards and recognition for her works.

The Most Amazing Alphabet Tale

Stafakarlarnir, 2008

One of the top-selling children’s books of all time in Iceland. It teaches the letters of the alphabet in a unique manner where each of the letters becomes a live character and is presented in a coherent and amusing story.

The book has made a substantial contribution to teaching children in Iceland, including autistic children, how to read. The method has proven adept for other medium. The story has been produced for TV, been used in an extremely popular CD-rom as well as in a lively music CD.
Do as I Do – Happy and the Animals
Gerðu eins og ég: Hvati og dýrin, 2012

Happy is a good puppy even though his curiosity tends to get him into trouble. He knows all sorts of tricks – he rolls over, bends, twists and turns. One day he goes to the zoo with Asa and gets lost. While looking for Asa he has fun showing the animals, which he finds a bit lazy, how to move and shake. Even though the exercises don’t always go to plan Happy knows that the trick is just to not give up. Practice makes perfect!

ENCOURAGING THE CHILD
Movement is important at all stages of life. It improves health and increases well-being. During the first years it is important to encourage children to exercise and make it an intricate part of everyday life. This book is meant to be a good read but also a tool for parents and those who work with children to encourage systematic exercise, development, and bonding.
THORARINN ELDJARN  
TEXT

EDDA HEIDRUN BACKMAN  
ILLUSTRATIONS

THORARINN ELDJARN (b. 1949) is one of Iceland’s most admired authors and the recipient of many awards. He has tackled every genre; he is one of Iceland’s most accomplished poets, has published countless children’s books, written novels, collections of short stories and scripts and also worked as a translator.

EDDA HEIDRUN BACKMAN (b. 1957) was one of Iceland’s most admired actresses for decades, but had to retire due to a genetic degenerative disease. Now she is confined to a wheelchair and has lost use of her hands. She painted the illustrations for the book with her mouth.

Solvi, wake-up!  
Vaknaðu, Sölvi, 2012

A story in verse about the adventures of Solvi and his friend the cat.

Friendship  
Ása og Erla, 2012

A story in verse about Asa and Erla and their life-long friendship.
THORARINN ELDJARN
TEXT

SIGRUN ELDJARN
ILLUSTRATIONS

SIGRUN ELDJARN (b.1954) has written and illustrated high on forty children’s books. She was the first author to receive the Sogusteinn Children’s Book Award for her literary career in 2007, having received up to that point several awards and recognition for her work, among others the City of Reykjavik Children’s Book Award three times and nominations to the H.C. Andersen Award, The Nordic Children’s Book Award and the West Nordic Children’s Book Award.

The Seasons
Árstíðirnar, 2010

The illustrated verse and poetry of siblings Sigrun and Thorarinn Eldjarn have enjoyed great popularity in Iceland over the years. This is a hugely entertaining addition to their collection. The book evokes everything from the summer sun, sleet, snow men and Christmas, autumn, birds, and cold spells in the spring.

Madcomhere
Óðhalaringla, 2004

Madcomhere is a fun and peculiar creature who comes to life in three of Thorarinn Eldjarn’s hilarious books of poetry with stunning illustrations by his sister Sigrun Eldjarn: Madfly, World Ring and Comet. In Madcomhere life as we know it is turned utterly on its head and goes wild; cars turn into sofas on wheels, fire hydrants wear plimsolls and cows hover over ice in a skating dance, to mention but a few incidents. Madcomhere is a poetry book to delight all lovers of original and fun verse.
Hún var um það bil að gefast upp þegar hún rak annan fótinn í eitthvað mjúkt. Hún beygði sig niður og hélt fyrst að þetta væri sofandi hagamús. En þetta var hann. Unginn hennar.


GUDRUN HELGADOTTIR
TEXT (author information on page 36)

ANNA CYNTHIA LEPLAR
ILLUSTRATIONS

ANNA CYNTHIA LEPLAR (b.1953) is among the best known illustrators and children’s book designers in Iceland.

A Little Story About a Lazy Chick

Lítil saga um latan unga, 2010

Little Chick is so happy in his nest with his mummy that he doesn’t ever want to leave it. It is, therefore, very appropriate for his mummy to call him Nestor! And mummy does everything Nestor asks, she finds his favourite worms and insects for him and keeps the nest tidy. One day, however, mummy has had enough. An entertaining tale about being independent.
KRISTIN STEINSDOTTIR
TEXT

HALLA S. THORGEIRSDOTTIR
ILLUSTRATIONS

KRISTIN STEINSDOTTIR (b.1946) is one of Iceland’s best known authors of children’s books and has received numerous recognitions for her work. Her first book, published in 1987, received the Icelandic Children’s Book Award that year. Her book, *An Angel in the Neighbourhood*, won the the Nordic Children’s Book Award in 2003.

HALLA S. THORGEIRSDOTTIR (b.1965) is an award-winning artist and illustrator. She has illustrated dozens of children’s books and received The Dimmalimm Prize for Illustration in 2002 for her artwork in the book *An Angel in the Neighbourhood*.

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Who Eats Polar Bears?

*Hver étur ísbirni? 2006*

Young Rissa and her family have spent their winter on the western cost of Greenland. There are many animals that can be seen in the sea, but unfortunately no polar bears. Rissa and her sister, Skegla, set off on a long journey to find some. An educational and entertaining story, which shows us how both men and animals live during the winter in Greenland.

PICTURE BOOK, HARDCOVER
40 pp, 20 x 27.5 cm
Sold to: Denmark, Greenland (Milik)
HALLFRIDUR OLA.FSDOTTIR

TEXT

THORARINN MAR BALDURSSON

ILLUSTRATIONS

HALLFRIDUR OLA.FSDOTTIR (b.1964) is principal flautist of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, mother of two young children and an experienced music teacher.

THORARINN MAR BALDURSSON (b.1977) is a violist in the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. www.maximusmusicus.com

Maximus Musicus Visits the Orchestra

Maxímús músíkús heimsækir hljómsveitina, 2008

Maximus Musicus really hit the jackpot one day, when he wandered into a concert hall where a symphony orchestra is rehearsing. This lively tale leads the reader into the magical world of music. The musical instruments are introduced one by one, as Maxi’s story progresses and readers learn to recognize the sounds each of them produces. The book includes a CD telling the story with animated sound effects and the Iceland Symphony Orchestra plays the passages of music it includes.

- The Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize 2008
- The Icelandic Women’s Literature Award 2008
- Nominated for the Frettabladid Community Award 2010

PICTURE BOOK, HARDCOVER
48 pp. 21,5 x 26,5 cm
Sold to:
Australia (alto books); Korea (Daekyo);
Faroe Islands (Bókadeildin);
Germany (Schott Music);
UK and USA (Music Word Media);
China (99 Shanghai Readers’ Culture)
English and German translations available

4-9 YEARS
Maximus Musicus
Visits the Music School
Maxímús músíkús trítlar í tónlistarskólann, 2010

Maximus Musicus lives in an old bass in the corner of a large concert hall and enjoys his happy and melodious life. Embarking on an unexpected journey one day, he discovers that children can also play musical instruments, even in concerts! The music-loving Maximus made his début in the book Maximus Musicus Visits the Orchestra, and became an instant favourite with young children in Iceland. Now there is a new tale of Maxi and his adventures. The book is accompanied by a CD with the story narrated by actor Valur Freyr Einarsson, while young soloists play the musical chapters of the story accompanied by the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, directed by Daniel Bjarnason.
Maximus Musicus is a musical mouse and when he returns one morning after an invigorating walk, some interesting guests are arriving at the concert hall – large groups of children! The youngsters are there to rehearse a ballet with the symphony orchestra and they dance so well that Maxi becomes curious. Where did they become so good? Maxi decides to find out and has a great day at the ballet school. On returning to the concert hall, Maxi manages to save the performance just in time for curtain-up. The story revolves around the music of the Mother Goose Suite by Maurice Ravel with its many different fairy-tale characters: Sleeping Beauty, Tom Thumb, Beauty and the Beast, a Chinese Princess and a Fairytale Garden, as well as Glazunov’s Winter, Tchaikovsky’s Sleeping Beauty Ouverture and Pas de deux. The story ends with Fire by Icelandic composer Jórunn Vidar.

“Maximus Musicus Saves the Ballet is a wonderful and imaginative book, fantastically illustrated and a delightful introduction to the world of Ballet.”

Bravo!“

HELGI TÓMASSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BALLET
INGIBJORG SIGURDARDOTTIR (1953–2010) studied arts and crafts at the Iceland Academy of the Arts, and Konstfackskolan in Stockholm, Sweden. BRIAN PILKINGTON (b.1950) is very well known for his brilliant book illustrations. He has written and illustrated many books for children, which have been published in a number of countries.

**Flowers on the Roof**
Blómin á þakinu, 1985

A funny story of Granny Gunn who used to live in the country in an old farmhouse with grass and flowers on the roof. Then she moved to town with everything she owned. But what should she do with her animals and her flowers? When she got bored, a boy from the neighbourhood helped her move a little bit of the countryside to town.

**I Know a Rhino**
Á dýrabaki, 2006

TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIAN PILKINGTON

Lots of kids have been on horseback, but what would it be like to sit on the backs of other animals, such as a rhinoceros, giraffe or kangaroo? One day a little boy tries all of these but realises that the best thing of all is to sit on his tricycle.
One sunny day a pink spaceship lands in the garden of Aki and his siblings. Out of it emerges a strange being with two heads who claims his name is Betwo. The being is curious regarding life on Earth, especially regarding a puzzling phenomenon he has observed from outer space. Betwo spends an entire day with the siblings; encounters a lady who sometimes writes stories, gets to know grandpa’s hot cocoa and granny’s woolly socks. Last but not least he gets to know all about the mysterious phenomenon - books - and they do not disappoint him in the least!

Betwo is one of Sigrun Eldjarn’s first titles and played an important role in establishing her as the favourite author of numerous Icelandic children. This is an updated edition with new and fun illustrations by the author.
Finn Finds Raisin

Finnur finnur Rúsínu, 2009

Finn lives on a farm where there are lambs and pigs and chickens. But animals are food, as well! Is it alright to play with your food? Then Finn finds Raisin. But instead of being food, Raisin is a highly engaging playmate. Or isn’t that so? A lively and charming tale of the Icelandic countryside.

The Yellow Letter

Gula sendibréfið, 2006

Walking over the rugged lava field, Logi finds a weird letter. It seems to be a call for help from a mysterious woman. With the help of his friends, both visible and invisible, Logi sets off on a perilous journey over the lava field close to a spitting volcano to save her. An adventurous and stunningly illustrated book from one of Iceland’s most popular authors.
A Giant Love Story
Ástarsaga úr fjöllunum, 1981

One of Iceland’s most popular children’s books. It was first published in 1981 and has since been translated into several other languages. The story gives the reader an unforgettable insight into the magic world of Icelandic legend and folklore. It is an exciting story – filled with love, compassion and humour which appeals to children all over the world.
Dynkur
Dynkur, 2004
Dynkur the troll boy is afraid of the daylight and all the curious people who wander by his cave from time to time. But his mother convinces him that there is nothing to fear, and together they venture forth into the wilderness to gather plants and mushrooms. The world outside is nothing like Dynkur expected it to be – and neither are the people, who appear little and harmless. Brian Pilkington’s stories of Icelandic trolls have long been well known and respected nationwide, as well as abroad, and deserve a place at every child’s bedside.

Stumble
Hlunkur, 2000
An enchanting tale of a troll who wakes up from a long, deep sleep, in the middle of nowhere. He doesn’t know who he is, or what to do. Only two ravens take an interest in him. He follows them, and gradually things become clearer in his mind. In the end he discovers that everybody is welcome somewhere – even trolls!

Icelandic Trolls
Allt um tröll, 1999
In this stunningly beautiful book, Brian Pilkington brings the amazing world of the trolls to life in an amusing and original fashion. The Icelandic folk legends have been used as a background, but a great deal of new and surprising information has been added concerning the living conditions, traditions and customs of these ancient creatures.
In Iceland there isn’t just one Father Christmas, there are thirteen Christmas brothers! Before Christmas they visit Icelandic children and sneak something nice into their shoe. Here you can read all about these lads, what each of them likes to do and their favourite foods. Yet again, Brian Pilkington produces an original and entertaining work based on traditional Icelandic tales and folk beliefs.
STEINAR BERG (b.1952) is well known for his years in the Icelandic music industry as editor and distributor of records. He now runs a farm-hotel in Borgarfjordur, besides writing books for children.

**Trolls Take Action**
Tröllagleði, 2009

The trolls have problems. Not only are more and more settlers making homes for themselves in the district, but molten lava from an eruption is flooding what was once flourishing troll farmlands. Something has to be done, and quickly. As so often before, they seek the advice of Hallmundur the Elderly, a wise and patient troll. This time he seems stumped by the problem, but his imaginative daughter Hringaló helps him find a new homeland for the trolls. And proposes they celebrate their success in true troll fashion.

**The Last Troll**
Tryggðatröll, 2007

An enchanting story about the lives of the troll-girl Drifa and a farmer’s son, Bergsteinn. As the fate of Drifa and Bergsteinn unfolds, it becomes clear that life brings both happiness and sorrow for men and trolls alike. With its moving story and brilliant illustrations *The Last Troll* will appeal to children of all ages.
ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON

TEXT

ASLAUG JONSDOTTIR

ILLUSTRATIONS (author information on page 2)

ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON (b.1973) has won the Icelandic Literary Prize for both fiction and non-fiction, his work has been published or performed in over twenty countries and received numerous international awards, amongst them the Janusz Korczak Honorary Award, the West Nordic Children’s Book Prize and the Alfred Toepfer Kairos Prize in 2010. Magnason has been active in the fight against the destruction of the Icelandic Highlands.

www.andrimagnason.com
The Story of the Blue Planet
Sagan af bláa hnettinum, 1999

On a blue planet far out in space there are no adults, only children, who play when they want to and go to sleep when they are tired. Then a mysterious man lands on the planet, and teaches them how to fly when the sun shines, by flicking the dust off butterflies’ wings. A perilous adventure ensues, taking the children through dark forests and skies of blue. Their friendship and ingenuity are put to the test as never before. A captivating and subtle adventure that has all the ingredients of a classic.

A play based on the book premiered in The Icelandic National Theatre in 2001 and has since travelled around the world in theatres in Sweden, Pakistan, Bucharest, London, Berlin, Chicago and Toronto, to name a few.

- The West-Nordic Literary Award 2002
- The Janusz Korczak Honorary Awards
- The Icelandic Literary Prize
- Nomination for the Nordic Children’s Book Award
- Nomination for the IBBY Award
- The National Theatre Prize for New Plays
- Nomination for The Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize
- Nominated to the IBBY International Honour List 2001 for Illustrations
SILJA ADALSTEINSDOTTIR  
TEXT SELECTION

HALLDOR BALDURSSON  
ILLUSTRATIONS (see author information on page 30)

SILJA ADALSTEINSDOTTIR (b. 1943) has a degree in Literary Studies. She is well known for her translations and literary critique. She is the publishing director for Mal og menning.

Icelandic Fairy Tales  
Köttur út í mýri – íslensk ævintýri

Kings and queens, trolls, talking dogs and clever cats, hidden people and an outsmarted devil are only a few of the characters to be found in these stories, all of which are a part of the European and Scandinavian legacy, often reminiscent of Grimm’s Fairy Tales.

GUNNAR HELGASON  
BJORGVIN FRANZ GISLASON

TEXT

GUNNAR HELGASON (see author information on page 37) BJORGVIN FRANZ GISLASON is a popular actor and has directed a children’s programme on Icelandic State TV.

The Witch and the Strange Cuckoo Clock  
Nornin og dularfulla gauksklukkan, 2010

In far-away kingdom everybody is happy except for the king and queen, who cannot conceive a child. One day an extremely beautiful stranger gives the king and queen a strange cuckoo clock, saying that when the cuckoo calls for the first time, they will have a child soon after. But the cuckoo goes on to call more than once, and this does not always denote happy news.
BRYNHILDUR THORARINSDOTTIR
TEXT
BERGRUN IRIS SÆVARSDOTTIR
ILLUSTRATIONS

BRYNHILDUR THORARINSDOTTIR is a lecturer at the University of Akureyri. She has published several exciting books for children, received the Icelandic Children’s Book Award for The Lion’s Secret, and the Nordic Children’s Book Award for her retellings for children of three Icelandic Sagas.

The Bluewater Worm
Blávatnsormurinn, 2012

Silver Town School is the most interesting school in the country – or do you know another school that teaches Dragonology and has chocolate for lunch?

Sunny and Flame live in Silver Town in Sunny-fjord. They attend dragon classes, swim in the warm sea and eat cherries right off the trees! The friends experience something new and exciting every day, and now they are about to have the most dangerous adventure of all.

The Bluewater Worm is a lively story for children aged 6–9, wonderfully illustrated by Bergrun Iris Sævarsdottir.
GERDUR KRISTNY

TEXT

HALLDOR BALDURSSON

ILLUSTRATIONS (see author information on page 28)

GERDUR KRISTNY (b.1970) proved herself as one of Iceland’s most interesting poets with her first book, and has since then published several books of poetry, as well as short stories, novels and children’s books. She received the Icelandic Children’s Book Award for Smart Marta, The Halldor Laxness Award for her novel A Boat with Sails and All and the Icelandic Literary Award for her book of poetry, Bloodhoof.

HALLDOR BALDURSSON (b.1965) has illustrated numerous books for children and is also well known for his caricatures.

The President, the Princess and the Sleeping Palace

Forsetinn, prinsessan og höllin sem svaf, 2011

The president is going abroad! The princess’s mother is to be crowned queen and her father is to be crowned king and the president has been invited to the party. But there is something mysterious going on at the palace.

The President, the Princess and the Sleeping Palace is Gerdur Kristny’s third book about these lively characters, who have enjoyed great popularity both in books and on the stage of the National Theatre of Iceland. The story is richly illustrated by Halldor Baldursson.
The Princess at Bessastadir
Prinsessan á Bessastöðum, 2009

The President has some important guests at his residence, Bessastadir: a king, a queen and a princess! Independence Day approaches, when lots of hard-working people are supposed to be awarded the Falcon Medal. But before the Falcon Medal Party can start, all kinds of things happen, involving waterfalls, old, hard doughnuts, an aggressive chicken, a bride and groom and a marzipan ring cake that keeps shrinking ...

The Ball at Bessastadir
Ball á Bessastöðum, 2007

*The Ball at Bessastadir* is about a president who is bored at work. He is also lonely – because even though he gets many letters every day he is the only president in the country and can’t speak to any other president about presidential stuff. For instance: is it better to wave to children with your right hand or your left? He has no idea!

The Land of Lost Socks
Land hinna týndu sokka, 2006

Thorgeir is dying for a dog. But because of the yellow dog who disappeared long ago, his dream is unlikely to become true – until one day he discovers the Land of Lost Socks. This is the place where old lost things end up, so maybe his dog as well! A mysterious and exciting story by an award-winning author.
Here is a biography of the happy-go-lucky family dog, Grimm Dandelion, that never hunted birds but would hurt a fly once in a while. Her Greatness and Grumpy chose him from a whole basket full of puppies in a utility room in a farm-house, and he lived with them and their little rascals for the rest of his days. Grimm Dandelion went to Dog Academy. It didn’t do him much good but he did however teach Her Greatness and Grumpy a thing or two, and so much more than they ever managed to teach him. Good friends don’t necessary all walk on two feet. This is a story of the faithful dog who was sometimes dog-tired and bored, but mostly happy as a hound. A book for all animal lovers!
Fiasol and the Little Lion Robbery!
Fíasól og litla ljónaránið, 2010

Once upon a time Fiasol was on the loose. It was enough to write a whole book about. But of course that was not the WHOLE STORY. There was plenty that was KEPT SECRET. Not so much as a word was said about the incredible trip to a theme park where suspicious people and unusual animals appeared. Fiasol and family were going to keep quiet about their adventures, but now it’s time to LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG. Have fun!

Fiasol, the Greatest
Fíasól er flottust, 2008

This collection of stories holds the latest news on Fiasol, for example how she got involved in an incredible pirate-mess, how she held her own machine-free day and went on a never-ending camping trip. Fiasol, the Greatest was a best-seller in Iceland like all the previous books on this inventive girl and her lively family.

- Children’s Book Award 2009, chosen by children library visitors
Fiasol on the Loose
Fíasól á flandri, 2006

This sprightly little girl called Fiasol has already enjoyed great popularity in two other books. Once more we follow her on her hilarious escapades in a book that readers of all ages can enjoy. Among other things, she takes part in a game on the internet and gets her own personal servant she can use for a whole day. She soon realises the servant has magical powers – she can make her wishes come true by simply squeezing her finger a little and wishing them. Although she’s got to be careful about what she wishes for!

- Children’s Book Award 2007, chosen by children library visitors

Fiasol at Home
Fíasól í hosíló, 2005

Fiasol is a seven year old joy-bomb, who lives on Green Grove in Grassville. And although bombs are normally bad things, Fiasol is a good one because when she explodes she spreads nothing but joy all around her. Cute little Fiasol happens to know this because she asked her mom, and mom knows almost everything. This is a collection of eight new entertaining stories about Fiasol, each one funnier and livelier than the next. Halldor Baldursson brings Fiasol to life with his brilliant illustrations.

- Nominated for the Bookseller’s Prize as the Best Children’s Book of 2005
- Children’s Book Award 2006, chosen by children library visitors

Fiasol Feeling so Fine
Fíasól í fínum márum, 2004

Fiasol is a seven-year old girl with a mind of her own. For instance, she ONLY wants to wear pink clothes, and she has even stolen some candy, although that was only by accident and not something she would ever do again. More often that not, the brilliant ideas that occur to Fiasol conflict with the views of grown-ups. And that can get her into trouble. Fiasol Feeling so Fine is a collection of amusing tales of a sprightly little scamp that became an instant hit with Icelandic children.
OLAFUR GUNNAR GUDLAUGSSON
TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

OLAFUR G. GUDLAUGSSON (b.1964) is vastly experienced in design and layout, having worked at numerous newspapers and magazines as well as autonomous work, which includes one of the best known and most popular children’s book’s characters in Iceland, Benedikt the house elf. www.alfheimar.is

Benedikt the House Elf
Benedikt búálfur

Dragon’s Gold  Drekagull, 2007
Benedikt the House Elf is not very happy when he wakes up one morning and can’t do any magic at all. But Benedikt is not one to give up easily and so he embarks on a journey to reclaim his magical powers. His friend Dudley the Dragon joins him and they set off on an exciting adventure into unknown territory.

The Black Witch  Svarta nornin, 2006
As Benedikt is sorting through the mail at Didi’s place, he comes across a mysterious parcel that he takes with him to the elf world. The contents of the package threaten to unleash a cruel fate on Benedikt and the Elf World, if he and his three little friends, Dudley the Dragon, Ari the Fire Titan and Darri Dewdrop, don’t manage to stop it.

Queen of The Dragons  Drottning drekanna, 2004
On their flight around the forest, Benedict the Elf, Didi, and Dudley the Dragon meet a girl who is crying. They haven’t a clue who she is – and what’s worse, neither does she. They go to Magnus the Magnificent, the wisest elf in the forest, and ask him for advice. Magnus helps them onto the right path – and the adventures that follow are more exciting than any of them could possibly have imagined beforehand.
GUDRUN HELGADOTTIR (b.1935) published her first book in 1974 and has since been one of Iceland’s most popular and respected children’s authors. From that date onwards she has published over two dozen books. Helgadottir has received several prizes and recognitions for her work. In 1992 she received the Nordic Children’s Book Award for the book *From beneath the Weeds*, in 1994 she received the Reykjavík Educational Council Children’s Book Prize for *Poor Little Things*, in 2005 the book *Different Family* received the Young Readers’ Selection Book of the Year Prize and later that year the Jonas Hallgrimsson award for her contribution to the Icelandic tongue.

Plain Fun
Bara gaman, 2008

Life in Bakkabaer is exactly as it should be.
A part from the fact that Tumi is worried that mum doesn’t have a boyfriend, and his sister Vildis would really want her to have a bit more money.
But little Vala has no worries and neither has mum.
She works like mad in her workshop and has no idea that they need a man about the house.
*Plain Fun* is a riotous family story by one of Iceland’s most popular children’s authors. The readers are invited to spend the summer with the family in Bakkabaer and it’s just plain fun!
Different Days
Öðruvísi dagar, 2003

When the 9 years old Karen Karlotta begins to deliver the early morning newspaper with her brother she gets to know Elisabeth, the strange old woman who goes down to the shore every night and stares out at the sea. Karen finds out that Elisabeth has a dramatic past behind her, and the morning they find a new-born baby on her doorstep they realise that the future might also be dramatic.

A Different Family
Öðruvísi fjölskylda, 2004

Karen Karlotta, “still 9 almost 10,” continues to tell her story where she left off in Different Days. One day her grandmother catches an unlucky thief in the window of her apartment and decides to take him in for a while. From that day things begin to happen that can’t be classified as ordinary events in the life of an ordinary family. Or can they?

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2004

A Different Story
Öðruvísi saga, 2006

Karen Karlotta is finally ten years old and a great party is thrown to celebrate her birthday. She gets a lot of presents but most exciting is the letter from granddad in England inviting the whole family to come and visit him in October. A busy summer passes and by the time autumn arrives and school starts Karen discovers that no-one has even mentioned the word October all summer. Nothing is ever ordinary with this different kind of family! A Different Story is the third and last book in this trilogy by one of Iceland’s most beloved children’s writer.
The setting up of The Natural History Museum and The Antiques Museum went well. All that’s left is the top floor where the Art Museum is supposed to be. But the space is a mess and very little to put on display aside from insignificant paintings and ugly statues. Runar’s dad is offered a job abroad and gets his mother to come and finish the job. She recruits help from various places – from unusual friends from near and far, the children in Asgardur, and mysterious natural forces.

In a dusty shop in New York, Runar is given a mysterious package and asked to take it to Iceland. At the same time his friends receive a strange delivery from a woman they didn’t even know existed. At home in Asgardur preparations for the opening of the Natural History Museum are under way; a stuffed polar bear will be on show, but something exciting is lacking. Something quite unique!

Runar has just moved to a small village where his father has taken up the post of museum curator. Along with the kids from next door, Runar helps his dad to organise the museum, but then mysterious things begin to come to light.
The Island of the Sun Bird
Eyja sólþúfílsins, 2008

Ymir and Gunna are supposed to be babysitting Tumi and Maria for a few days before school starts, so the adventures of the summer must be over – or are they? On the Island of the Sun Bird, where the sun shines and the inhabitants float around on flying carpets, everything looks to be quite as it should be, but the three-eyed Trina knows better. And she knows where to get help!

The Island of the Glass Fish
Eyja Glerfískilsins, 2007

Ymir and Gunna are still reflecting on the adventure they had on the Island of the Golden Serpent when they stumble on a mysterious metal fragment. The children are sure it is from the Golden Serpent itself and decide to try and return it. The Island of the Glass Fish is the second book by Sigrun Eldjarn about the teenagers Gunna and Ymir and the two kids they baby-sit. This is an independent sequel to the book The Island of the Golden Worm and it is illustrated by the author like the previous book.

The Island of the Golden Worm
Eyja gullormsins 2006

When Ymir and Gunna decide to sail out to the islet in the middle of the pond with the children they’re minding, they’ve no idea of what a perilous journey they’re embarking upon. Suddenly, without warning, the tiny islet turns into the mysterious Island of the Golden Worm where a sorry state of affairs reigns and the strangest things happen. The first story in a new trilogy of adventures by a multi-award winning author, who is known for her unique ability to blend tension with humour.
Heart of Stone  
Steinhjartað, 2005

Siblings Stina and Jonni are expecting a visit from their friend Skafti. But as soon as he steps onto the plane that is supposed to be taking him to the city, a mysterious chain of events is set in motion, and the kids will have to do everything they can to save themselves – and indeed the whole world – from imminent disaster. A breath-takingly exciting book with lively and colourful illustrations by Sigrun Eldjarn.

- Nominated for the Bookseller’s Prize as the best children’s book of 2005

The Frozen Toes  
Frosnu tærnar, 2004

Everything’s changed at High Hillock now that the curse of the Fog Queen has been lifted. But there is still something strange going on in the country, and so Stina and Jonni head out again on a dangerous mission, now accompanied by young Stevie. Among the magical items they carry with them are three small bottles containing potions of various colors, a yellowed scrap of paper with musical notes written on it, and a pair of striped green pants with innumerable pockets. But will this be enough?

- Nominated for the West-Nordic Literary Award

The Lost Eyes  
Týndu augun, 2003

Nominated for the Nordic Children’s Book Award 2003 Mist and darkness hover over the landscape Stina and Jonni find themselves trapped in. And when they escape, the wild lava fields and creepy woods do little to cheer them up. It turns out to be a perilous journey and countless questions arise. The Lost Eyes is a breath-taking book for both boys and girls, packed with colourful pictures by one of Iceland’s most loved children’s writers.

- The Bookseller’s Prize as the best children’s book of 2003
GUNNAR HELGASON

GUNNAR HELGASON (b. 1965) is an actor and well known for all kinds of entertaining material for children which has enjoyed great popularity for some years. Amongst other things he has directed a popular children’s program on Icelandic State TV.

Free Kick Fantasy

Aukaspyrna á Akureyri, 2012


...The great football adventure ... continues!

Free Kick Fantasy is a thrilling story that Icelandic girls and boys have been waiting for, ever since they finished Football Fury. Jon Jonsson and his friends continue to fight for victory, both on and off the field. As they say: you lose some, you win some, but you must keep your eye on the ball!

Penalty in the Westman Islands

Viti í Vestmannaeyjum, 2011

Penalty in the Westman Islands is a thrilling story about great goal-keepers, doughty defenders, wily wingers, fleet-footed forwards and glorious goals ... but also about other things such as a surly skipper, a corrupt cop, fire-breathing mountains and other even more serious problems that need dealing with in spite of the fact that there is a football tournament going on.
An Angel in the Neighbourhood
Engill í vesturbænum, 2002

Askur lives with his mother in a block in the west of Reykjavik. Everyone thinks only very ordinary people live there - but he knows better. A werewolf is on the loose, as well as Pippi Longstockings, silverfish and an angel, but to mention a few. A fascinating and original story in which a boy’s speculations about life conjure up countless images, and imagination runs rampant. Each page is beautifully illustrated in colour, adding a magical touch to the story.

- The Nordic Children’s Book Award 2003
- The Icelandic IBBY Award
- The Icelandic Illustration Award 2002
- The Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize 2003
- The West-Nordic Literary Award 2004
Heroes
Hetjur, 2009

Thorhallur and his family have just moved to Trondheim in Norway. He doesn’t know anyone at school and not even the teacher can pronounce his name right. A long-dead king seems to hover over and pervade everything, as if he were still alive. Why does everyone think it’s fun to live abroad? And how in the world is an 11-year old boy from Reykjavik going to survive this ordeal? Kristin Steinsdottir has received numerous awards for her books. Here she weaves together ancient tales, contemporary events and reflections on what it means to be a hero.

Vicious Circle
Vítahringur, 2004

Vicious Circle takes place in the 10th century and tells the story of Grimkell and his family. Grimkell lives a carefree life with his parents until the day when the family is forced to leave home because of a feud between Grimkell’s father and one of his relatives. They settle in Hvalfjord and try to live a normal life despite being surrounded by enemies. Vicious Circle is a tale about life in Iceland over a thousand years ago. Slaves, warriors, battles, and magic all come into play, but the book centres on the story of a boy who wants to live a peaceful life and finds that it’s easier said than done.
AUDUR JONSDOTTIR TEXT

THORARINN LEIFSSON ILLUSTRATIONS

AUDUR JONSDOTTIR (b.1973) is one of Iceland's most highly acclaimed writers. She has received numerous awards for her works. Her novel, The People in the Basement, received The Icelandic Literary Prize and a nomination for the Nordic Council Literary Prize. www.jonsdottir.com

THORARINN LEIFSSON (b.1966) studied at the Icelandic Academy of Arts. In the same period he worked as a street painter in Western Europe. After graduation from art school he worked as an illustrator, billboard painter and graphic designer. He has illustrated several books and newspaper articles. The HC Andersen books, published in 4 northern countries are among his most important illustrations. Grandmother's Library and Father’s big Secret are the only books selected to form part of the exhibition on Icelandic design, Randscharf: Design in Island in the Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt. www.totil.com

Total Freedom

Algjört frelsi, 2001

On the first day of the summer vacation, Tinna wakes up craving chocolate. Her mother has just banned her from eating sweets, so there are no goodies in the house. In a fit of rage, Tinna, Young Granddad and the talking dog Ruffles storm out of the house and start a wild search for Tinna’s dad, who never refuses his daughter anything. Their quest leads the companions into all kinds of adventures. Imaginative story with lively, original colour pictures.

- Shortlisted for the Bookseller’s Literary Award 2001.
Grandmother’s Library

Bókasafn ömmu Huldar, 2009

Albertina lives in a peculiar world. There are no books and the special educational machines in school only teach about loan interest rates. The Internet has been prohibited for years and the terrible Gold Bank has gained control of most of the world. Finally grownups start to disappear one by one. That’s when grandmother Huld turns up with an enormous library of books and dangerous knowledge. From now on nothing stays the same.

grandmotherslibrary.com

• The Reykjavík Educational Council Children’s Book Prize 2009
• Nominated for the Nordic Children’s Book Award

Father’s Big Secret

Leyndarmálið hans pabba, 2007

How long can you keep a terrible secret? This is the question that two siblings ponder in this book, but when their father tries to eat their best friend he goes too far and they decide to tell the police the truth – their father is a cannibal. Father’s Big Secret is a story about normal children dealing with a very abnormal problem with unforeseen consequences. At the same time the story tackles a very real problem that many children face – when do you have to tell and when should you keep quiet?

fathersbigsecret.com
KRISTJANA FRIDBJORNSDOTTIR

KRISTJANA FRIDBJORNSDOTTIR (b. 1976) has a degree from The Teachers University of Iceland. She has worked as primary school teacher in Reykjavik, besides organizing social activities for children and young people.

Dandelion Violet  Fjóli Fífils

Napoleon’s Sword  Sverð Napóléons, 2009

After solving a complicated criminal case, Dandelion Violet is taking a holiday. But he hasn’t been in Paris long when a new case comes along. An audacious thief breaks into the city’s Military Museum in the middle of the day and steals the sword of Napoleon Bonaparte. The police immediately start their investigation but the Museum Director has more faith in Dandelion Violet and his friends.

The Ransom  Lausnargjaldið, 2008

Private eye Dandelion Violet is working on a new case. This time he has to save the schoolmaster of the Private Detective School itself from the clutches of kidnappers. It is a good job that Violet is a master in footprint and fingerprint detection and scared of absolutely nothing. The ransom which the kidnappers are demanding is nothing less than the necklace of the goddess Freyja, which Sumarlíði has stored away somewhere, if he could only remember where.

The Shadow Watch  Skuggaúríð, 2007

The day after Dandelion Violet graduates from the Private Detective School his first mysterious case lands on his lap. He and his assistants set off on an exotic quest for a gold watch that has been stolen from the World Museum. The Shadow Watch is the first in this series about the adventures of a hapless detective that will make readers burst out laughing uncontrollably.
The Travel Log of Olafia Arndis
Reisubók Ólafíu Arndísar, 2012

Two days into the summer vacation, Olafia Arndis’ grandmother appears out of the blue and invites her to come with her on a trip. She says she’s going to travel around in an ancient camper van and visit old friends. At first Olafia is not too keen, but decides to tag along when she is told she can have a brand new tablet computer to keep a travel log. And here we have her travel log, which is not exactly the one her grandmother was expecting! Illustrated by Margret Laxness.

Olafia Arndis’s Diary
Dagbók Ólafíu Arndísar, 2011

Olafia Arndis is an extremely unlucky girl. No sooner has she escaped from Flatey island (which actually turned out to be more fun than she had expected and in the end not really bad at all) than her parents up sticks and move to Dalvík. Here she starts to write a diary and also to look for work so she can save enough money to pay for the fare to Reykjavík. This very entertaining story is a sequel to Letters from Flatey Island.

Letters from Flatey Island
Flateyjarbréfin, 2010

School is over and all children are happy that the summer holidays have started. Olafia Arndis will stay in Flatey island for the summer, which means she will have to send the home assignments by post to her teacher back in Reykjavík. However, in her letters Olafia Arndis tends to dwell on almost anything rather than the curriculum, as so many things happen to her on the island, even though it has very few houses and hardly any inhabitants.

- The Reykjavík Educational Council Children’s Book Prize 2010
KJARTAN YNGVI BJORNSSON and SNAEBJORN BRYNJARSSON are 28 years old (b. 1984) and have been friends since secondary school. Both are great fans of fantasy fiction. Kjartan has a degree in Literature and is now studying creative writing. Snaebjorn writes for the stage and is currently studying Japanese. Raven’s Eye is their first book.

Raven’s Eye
Hrafnsauga, 2012

Almost a thousand years have passed since the Age of Darkness, when the seven sages joined forces and vanquished the Shadows. The dark times are now mostly forgotten. But though human memory has faded, the ancient forces never forget.

The initiation festival is coming soon, the day when the Master of Spells will tell Ragnar, Breki, Sirja, and their peers in the village what their roles and duties are to be. The children should be enjoying their last carefree days in the summer sun, but the future holds different things in store.

The ancient forces that once plunged the world into relentless night have stirred again and their Harpies are afoot. They are seeking something in the village.

It is not long before the children are drawn into events that they don’t understand, but soon they realize that their actions will decide the fate of three worlds.

Raven’s Eye is the first book in the Three Worlds series, a thrilling saga of blood-magic, hidden secrets, and forgotten fiends that threaten all three worlds.
BRYNDIS BJÖRGVINSDOTTIR (b. 1982) is an ethnologist by education. She published her first book, *Superman Ormar’s Dictionary* along with a friend when they were fifteen years of age.

**The Fly Who Stopped the War**

*Flugan sem stöðvaði stríðið, 2011*

The houseflies glanced back and forth between the fly on the front page and the commotion of the people. They were all thinking the same thing. No-one in the whole world would be able to explain the goings-on during the night as well as they could. They were the only ones who had seen what happened, with their sophisticated and perceptive housefly eyes. That is why they felt they should try and explain what brought about the end of the war and a housefly ending up on the front pages of all the world’s biggest newspapers.

Kolkex, Hermann Sukker and The Fly are just ordinary houseflies. The sort of flies very few people notice and which hardly ever do anything significant. Until the day they decide to run away from home and seek out the good monks of Nepal.

*The Fly Who Stopped the War* is an unusual story, both hilarious and deadly serious at the same time; it is about flies, people and war. It was chosen from a large number of scripts that competed for the 2011 Icelandic Children Literary Award.
THORGRIMUR THRAINSSON

Are you God, Granddad?

Ertu guð, afi?, 2010

Emma Soffía is eleven years old; she has a father who is always at sea and a mother who makes regular attempts to break the Icelandic record for sulking. The grandfather she has never met appears on the doorstep with his dog Tarzan, after which nothing is like it was before. Are You God, Granddad? is a warm and entertaining story by Þorgrímur Þráinsson, a writer who has long been one of Iceland’s best-loved children’s writers. Here, he introduces his readers to pastures new and fascinating characters who are wise as well as humorous. This story was selected from a great number of scripts submitted for the 2010 Icelandic Children’s Book Award competition.

GUDMUNDUR BRYNJOLFSSON

What a Week

Þvílík vika, 2009

Three 15-year olds have started collecting breezers and beers with a view to thoroughly celebrating their graduation from Compulsory School in a weeks time. However, a lot can change in one week, and things don’t exactly turn out as they planned. What a Week, a powerful story of present-day teenagers, was selected from a large number of entries to be awarded the 2009 Icelandic Prize for Children’s Literature.
HRUND THORSDOTTIR

The Promise
Lofoðið, 2007

The Promise was elected the best story in a competition for The Icelandic Children’s Book Award in 2007. The committee felt it described in a unique way the feelings of an eleven year old girl who loses her best friend. This book tells the story of the girls’ friendship, the shock and the sense of loss when one of them dies. Last but not least the story is about the strange key and the promise Asta makes to her friend and swears by their secret place to fulfil.

The Promise is a powerful and intimate story which will leave no-one untouched.

RAGNHEIDUR GESTSDOTTIR

A Winning Chance
Leikur á borði, 2000

Soley is an independent-minded and energetic girl, but she has difficulty making friends and her classmates do everything they can to make her life a misery. She hides this from her family, but when a new girl joins her class her life changes sharply and unexpected things start happening. A candid, exciting and carefully told story that strikes a chord in the reader’s heart. The story is concerned with bullying, but the author handles the subject with remarkable tact, free of all contentiousness and bitterness. This is primarily a beautiful and memorable story on the value of friendship and tolerance.
“The land was washed-out and cold as far as the eye could see ...” Berg wakes up one day and the sun is high in the sky, but everything else is unfamiliar. The world is grey and dull, ruled by the Stone Creatures – terrifying monsters with slimy arms and razor sharp claws ... However, Berg is not alone in the world. A mysterious, cape-clad girl follows him at every turn. She is born into this gritty world and has never known anything but monsters and hardship. They set out on a dangerous journey together with a precious item in a bag – possibly mankind’s only hope to beat the Creatures and reclaim the planet.

How can a dog turn into a statue? That is somewhat mysterious but exactly what happened: Ring, old Ulf’s dog turned into a statue and immediately all the grown-ups in our village behaved as if he’d never existed. And Ring wasn’t the only animal to disappear without a trace leaving a stone statue behind. We had to get to the bottom of it. Which is why Erla, Haukur and myself entered Dark-cave on a more adventurous quest than anyone could ever have foreseen.

According to the jury of the award this is an exciting and original adventure story inspired in folk-tales and legends, yet unique.
THORGRIMUR THRAINSSON (b. 1959) is an award-winning author and free-lance journalist. His books for teenagers have been extremely popular in Iceland. He received the Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize in 1991, the Visa Cultural Award in 1992 and the Icelandic Children’s Book Award in 1997.

**The Kid who Disappeared**
Krakkinn sem hvarf, 2012

What is it like to have an insane inventor for a father? Kari usually finds it just fine but the day that the frozen-pipe-experiment goes out of hand, and millions of people laugh at him on YouTube, Kari is hardly the happiest eleven year old on the planet. However, he doesn’t know that his dad is considering considerably more dangerous things in his lab when no-one is looking.

The Kid who Disappeared is a lively and humorous story set in a small village where ghosts run amok, it’s highly dangerous to steal shampoo at the swimming pool, cars drive into the sea in the middle of the night, and it’s best to beware of the unknown.

**The Third Polar Bear**
Pridjí ísbjörninn, 2008

In Iceland everyone is talking about the two polar bears that arrived floating on the ice from the arctic during the summer. “I would love a polar bear for my birthday” thinks Karen as her family is preparing for a trip to the north of the country. Little does she imagine that her three siblings, Bjossi, Loa and Krummi, will have the opportunity of making her wish come true.
The Rhyolite Order
Ríólítrenglan, 2011

Hrafn has almost finished organizing the community centre’s spring trip to the mountains when he disappears without trace. The youngsters who were planning to go on the trip are devastated – not least his four friends who hang around the community centre most days. In the meantime everything is going haywire in Noi’s home, with elf experts toiling every day to pacify the invisible folk who previously occupied the area. Suddenly the charming Trausti appears out of nowhere, offering to take on Hrafn’s role. On a bright spring morning they set off from school in a coach, but seeds of doubt are everywhere – both on board the coach and amongst those left behind. The Rhyolite Order is a thrilling story, where legendary characters roam at large and it is a good idea to keep a piece of rhyolite in one’s pocket in order to protect oneself from the past.
Ghost Trail
Draugaslóð, 2007

In the deserted highlands two brothers have gone missing in a snowstorm, and Eyvindur Thoruson is determined to find out what’s going on.

Eyvindur, Eyvi to his friends, lives with his grandmother and their two cats in an old house by a lake. Life has been pretty much routine all of his thirteen years so, when Eyvi’s mother turns up out of the blue to invite him to spend the summer in a traveller’s lodge in the highlands, he jumps at the chance. During their journey into Kjolur, terrain of spooky tales of ghosts and outlaws, and the area where the two boys were last seen, Eyvi gets catapulted into a breathtaking adventure.

Ghost Trail is an exciting book, abounding with colourful characters, ghost stories, mystery and suspense.

- West Nordic Children’s Book Prize 2007
- Nominated for the Nordic Children’s Book Prize 2009

The Witches from Strandir
Strandanornir, 2003

The annual get-together of departed relatives and friends is coming up at Kolfridur’s. As usual, her grandchildren turn up, Ursula and Messiana, ten to twelve apprentice witches, and Valentinus, their big brother, along with his pals from the The Nobodies band. All the other guests are invisible. The party is off to a good start. But something goes wrong. An uninvited spectre makes a sudden and vivid appearance in the living room and doesn’t look too friendly. In this powerful book, Gunnarsdottir dips into the inexhaustible well of the Icelandic tales of witches and wizards that have been passed down throughout the ages, since the times of the Sagas.

- The Icelandic IBBY Award 2004
- Children’s Book Award 2004, chosen by children library visitors
SIF SIGMARSĐOTTIR
(TEXT)

SIF SIGMARSĐOTTIR (b. 1978) is a writer and a freelance journalist. She graduated from the University of Iceland with a BA in history and later attended the University of Reading where she received a MA in children’s literature.

I’m No Drama Queen
Ég er ekki dramadrottning, 2006

Embla starts blogging the day she finds out that her family is about to move to England. She thinks it’s terrible news, she doesn’t want to leave her friends and, least of all, a boy in her class that she’s had her eye on (although unfortunately the feeling doesn’t seem to be mutual). This stirs her to take drastic measures that will have their consequences. A vibrant and entertaining story by a new author.

Once Upon a Time There Was a Drama Queen
Einu sinni var dramadrottning í ríki sínu, 2007

When Embla learns that her boy friend plans to break up with her, she decides to take action. Determined to make sure that the adventure of her life has a happy ending, despite a temporary setback, she begins her search for a new prince charming. Unfortunately, the rules of fairy tales do not apply to Embla’s life. Not only do frogs not turn into princes, but princes do turn into frogs, and neither friendly dwarves nor helpful fairy godmothers cross her path. A terribly funny tale that made a real hit with Icelandic youths.
ARNDIS THORARINSDOTTIR
TEXT

ARNDIS THORARINSDOTTIR (b. 1982) has previously published many short stories for children and adults. This is her first novel.

Confessions of a Milk Carton Poet
Játningar mjólkurfernuskálds, 2011

It is all-important to make a good first impression. Halla knows this perfectly well! Which is why on the first day at the new school she makes sure her hair is freshly washed and her clothes are carefully chosen. The problem is that the rumour got there before her: She is the drug pusher from the Westside of town and nothing can change that image. So the only thing is to play along!

Double O Nine
Núll núll 9, 2009

Life follows its accustomed routine for Joel and his friends until Ania turns up. She is unlike anyone Joel has ever met, and after she suddenly sits down at his table in the Blue Pot Café one weird event follows another. And her computer, which has unexpectedly been left in Joel’s hands, contains evidence of events which could affect the future of Iceland.
JONINA LEOSDOTTIR

TEXT

JONINA LEOSDOTTIR (b.1954) has worked as a writer and journalist for decades and has had several recognitions for her work.

A Matter of Life and Death

Upp á líf og dauða, 2011

It is obvious. Whoever wrote the poem is experiencing a desperate inner struggle and might even have lost the will to live. This is an S.O.S.! But who sent it?

Hronn finds a piece of paper with a very sad poem after a few schoolmates have been to her home to work on a class project. She sets out to find the person who wrote it and lend him, or her, a helping hand, but that is easier said than done. Five of Hronn’s classmates were at her house and she has no way of knowing which one of them left the piece of paper, deliberately or by chance.

Her twin-creep of a brother and her best friend also join the search. But their interest in the mystery soon wears thin, as they get engrossed in something totally different.

A humorous thriller about depression and possible suicide.

Jonina Leosdottir’s novels for young adults have been extremely popular and she received an acknowledgement from IBBY for the trilogy that began with Kisses & Olives. A Matter of Life and Death is a lively and exciting story about a deadly serious matter that many people, sooner or later, encounter.
Me and You  Ég og þú, 2009

Kata is going crazy without her boyfriend in Brighton. She talks about him non-stop. Anna is more reserved about her feelings, and no one knows that she, too, left her heart in England. *Me and You* is the third book about the teenager Anna and her first acquaintance with love.

Black and White  Svart & hvítt, 2008

*Black & White* (Svart & hvítt) is an independent sequel to *Kisses and Olives* (Kossar og ólífur). After an eventful summer in England Anna starts secondary school in Reykjavik. In her mind she grapples with many things after her stay in Brighton, but nothing compared to the chaos that reigns in the head of her friend, Kata. Kata can’t get Deepak, the Indian boy she met in Brighton, out of her mind, but his parents have arranged his wedding with a girl in India he doesn’t even know. It becomes clear that the girls will not get to the bottom of all of this, unless they go back to England and take charge of the situation.

- The IBBY-in-Iceland Spring Breezes Award

Kisses and Olives  Kossar og ólífur, 2007

In *Kisses & Olives* we follow teen-queen Anna to Brighton, England where she works at a hotel over the summer. There she gets to know many surprising things – new situations and interesting people, but also new feelings she never had before. *Kisses and Olives* is an engaging story by Jonina Leosdottir that should appeal to all teenagers.

- The IBBY-in-Iceland Spring Breezes Award
HILDUR KNUTSDOTTIR
TEXT

HILDUR KNUTSDOTTIR (b. 1984) volunteered in Guatemala after graduating from college and travelled through Latin America. After that she spent a winter in Berlin and lived in Taiwan for a year, studying Chinese at Chengchi University, Taipei. She has previously published a novel for adults.

The Prophecy
Spádomurinn, 2012

“They simply appear beside children the night after they are born and disappear the night after a person dies.” Sigyn smiled the weariest smile Kolfinna had ever seen. “They are one of the mysteries of life. The wings and the East.”

Kolfinna is fifteen years old and life is full of questions: What is the point of having wings if you can’t use them? What is the threat her parents whisper about out in the shed, when they think she doesn’t hear? And what does it say in the prophecy, which only the adults in the village know?

The Prophecy is a gripping story from an exotic world where mysterious forces seek power and it is the fate of a teenage girl to fight back.
Timebox
Tímakistan, 2012

When things are looking bad and economists predict a massive financial crisis, Filippa’s family is lucky - they can crawl into their black boxes and wait for better times. But one day, her box opens and she is confronted by an abandoned city in ruins, with everyone stuck in black boxes waiting for things to get better.

Filippa meets a strange old lady in a house full of children and archaeological artefacts. The old lady tells them a story of a greedy king who conquered the world but yearned to conquer time. With a magical casket, transparent like glass but made of spidersilk, with such a dense weave that even time cannot penetrate the walls, the king can spare his beautiful princess the rainy days, the normal days and the worthless days.

One day a small boy opens the casket and the princess discovers that 20 years have passed, the kingdom is crumbling and the king has gone mad. There seems to be a connexion of some sort between the old woman’s story and Filippa’s world. She and her friends must find the link, which will hopefully show them how to fix the world.
Eyja is shocked when she looks through the window in her new flat and sees an enormous cemetery full of gloomy tombs and gravestones just across the street. Talking about neighbours! Still, the situation doesn’t get critical until her father buys a brown leather chair. Her parents think the chair is excellent, but Eyja instantly feels that it has brought something unwelcome into her home – something malignant. In her new school Eyja has great fun with her new mates, but best of all is Solvi – the boy who is perhaps a friend, perhaps a boy-friend and perhaps in 10th grade.

- *The Bookseller’s Literary Award 2008*
- *The West Nordic Children’s Book Prize 2010*
VILOBORG DAVIDSDOTTIR

TEXT

VILOBORG DAVIDSDOTTIR (b.1965) is the author of popularly acclaimed historical novels, including, among others, The Raven and Audur which were nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize. Her novel, Saga of Korka, has received rave reviews and gained the popularity of readers from all age groups. www.vilborgd.blogspot.com

Saga of Korka

Korkusaga, 2001

Their name is never mentioned in the Icelandic Sagas. The secret daughters of Norwegian settlers, born to women slaves. Korka is one of them, but she won’t accept a life of slavery and fights for a better life. Surprising events and a complicated destiny drive her away from Iceland to Denmark where great events await her in times of conflict. As a reward for her ingenuity she gains her freedom, but freedom can be a hurdle when you have no family and no means. Her future becomes frightening and her mind drifts back to Iceland. Exciting and dramatic tale.
Havamal – The Words of Odin
Hávamál, 2011

Havamal preserves the words of Odin, who was held supreme among the Norse gods. The poem is preserved in an ancient manuscript made of vellum leaves known as the Royal Book of the Poetic Edda (Codex Regius). Havamal is divided into six parts and Eldjarn revisits the most famous section of this work. The Guest Chapter covers good customs, behaviour and relationships and, among other things, emphasises the cultivation of friendship, appreciation of life’s values and taking care of one’s reputation.

The Sybil’s Prophecy
Völuspá, 2005

In the Sybil’s Prophecy, a seeress tells us how the world was created, with the first Norse gods and men. Thorarinn Eldjarn and Kristin Ragna Gunnarsdottir have made this famous ancient poem accessible to children of all ages with their playful verse and colourful pictures.

- Nominated for The Icelandic Illustration Award 2005
INGUNN ASDISARDOTTIR (b. 1952) is currently working on her PhD in Norse Mythology. She has worked as a theatre director, literary reviewer and translator and is now working as a free-lance investigator of Norse mythology as well as collaborating in an international project regarding heathen practices in the Nordic countries.

Norse Mythology
Örlög guðanna, 2008

*Norse Mythology* recounts many of the fascinating myths passed down through the centuries by people in the Nordic countries. These are the most widespread tales of this Northern heritage, telling of the creation of the world, dealings between the gods and Ragnarok, the end of the world, all of them finely illustrated.

- Nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize 2008
- The Icelandic Illustration Award 2008
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Sold to:
Sweden (Berghs förlag);
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BRYNHILDUR THORARINSDOTTIR
RETOLD BY (see author information on page 41)
MARGRET LAXNESS
ILLUSTRATIONS

MARGRET LAXNESS (b. 1961) is a children’s book illustrator and graphic-designer.

Laxdaela Saga Laxdæla, 2007

Laxdaela Saga is one of the better known and most popular Icelandic Sagas, for its combination of suspense an romance. This is a wonderful new edition of this classic saga, beautifully retold for children and teenagers, with colourful pictures, the third Icelandic saga to be published in this extremely popular form, the other two being Egil’s Saga and Njal’s Saga.

Njal’s Saga Njála, 2002

Njal’s Saga is one of the most popular Icelandic sagas. This dramatic action-packed family drama has lived with the nation for more than 700 years. Here the story is retold for children between the ages of 8-14, and complemented with useful information about the times and historical background in which it is set. M. Laxness illustrated the book, which also contains over sixty photographs and drawings to improve the reader’s understanding.

• The Icelandic IBBY Award, 2003

Egla – The Saga of Egil Egla, 2004

Egla – the Saga of Egill Skalla-Grimsson – tells of Vikings and farmers, kings and queens, battles and duels, magic and jewels. Egill grows up in Borgarfjörður and quickly becomes bigger and stronger than other boys. As a grown man, he is a fierce Viking who hires himself out as a soldier for foreign kings and chieftains. But he is also a gifted poet who saves his life by composing and reciting verse. Brynhildur Thorarinsdottir’s concise and informative rendition makes this well-known Icelandic saga accessible to children and young readers. The book is lavishly illustrated by Margret E. Laxness and includes dozens of photographs and other works of art.

• The Nordic Children’s Book Award 2007 – for the retellings of the three Icelandic Sagas
EMBLA YR BARUDOTTIR (b. 1973) has a degree in Icelandic and has worked as a translator and corrector. Together with Ingolfur O. Bjorgvinsson she received the Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize in 2004 for Bloodrain.

INGOLFUR ORN BJORGVINSSON (b. 1964) studied at the Icelandic Academy of the Arts and has worked as an illustrator and a designer for advertising agencies. Together with Embla Y. Barudottir he received the Reykjavik Educational Council Children’s Book Prize in 2004 for Bloodrain.

The Hero Hetjan, 2007
Winter Blood Vetrarvíg, 2005
The Burning Brennan, 2004
Blood Rain Blóðregn, 2003

Stories from the Saga world is an awarded series of thrilling comic books based on the well known Njal’s Saga. The authors retell this magnificent thousand years old story in a highly modern way that children of all ages and comic book readers will relate to, even if they have never heard of the Sagas. Well-known characters are brought back to life in a completely new light, and thousand year old battles are revived in vivid pictures and words, so that even those who know the story well will feel they are reading it for the first time. Each book tells an independent story and together the books very originally follow the events of Njal’s Saga backwards.

- The Reykjavík Educational Council Children’s Book prize 2004, as the best Icelandic Children’s Book
Why do mountains erupt?

Questions and answers about volcanoes

Af hverju gjósa fjöll?, 2011

Why do volcanic eruptions happen?
Do volcanoes always erupt?
Where do most eruptions take place on Earth?
Are there volcanic eruptions in space?
What is so special about the Surtsey and Heimaey eruptions?
What do I need to study to become a volcanologist?

Find the answers in the book and become more knowledgeable about volcanoes!