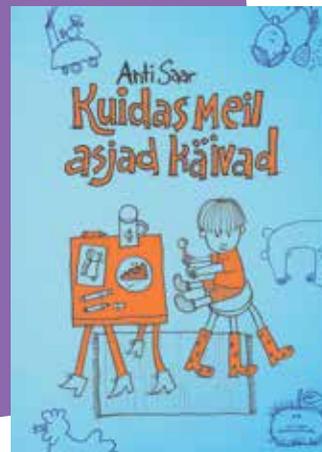
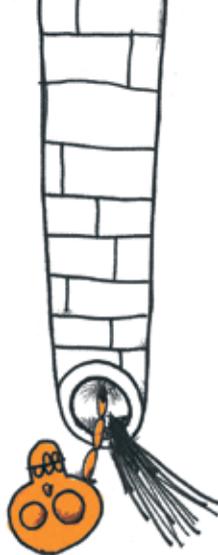


Anti Saar

ESTONIA

Anti Saar (1980) is a writer and translator who graduated from the University of Tartu in semiotics. Saar has translated over 30 works from French into Estonian and has written thirteen highly popular children's books to date. He enjoyed immediate acclaim with his first book *The Way Things Are with Us*, which was selected for the 2014 White Ravens Catalogue in addition to receiving several awards in Estonia. Saar immerses himself in the world of children and is capable of noticing the special in ordinary everyday life. His stories, which tend to ricochet from reality, are fluid, witty and sensitively worded.



The Way Things Are With Us

Illustrator: Alvar Jaakson
Tänapäev 2013, 136 pp
ISBN: 9789949273522
fiction, storybook
Age: 6+
Rights sold: Hungarian, Latvian, Polish

Awards:
2014 The White Raven
2013 Annual Children's Literature
Award of the Cultural Endowment of
Estonia
2013 Raisin of the Year Award
2013 Good Children's Book



The Way Things Are With Us is a humorous book about life in a completely ordinary family. Vassel lives in a nice little Estonian town with his mother, father, and little brother Joonas, who is just two-and-a-half years old. Vassel shows readers the way things are in his family – how they read, write and draw; cook and eat; tell ghost stories; argue; watch for the elves who bring presents around Christmas; drive in the car; go to sleep; get lost; play football; host guests; and forget things.

Storybook

Illustrator: Jüri Mildeberg

Tänapäev 2016, 76 pp

ISBN: 9789949278732

fiction, storybook

Age: 10+

Awards:

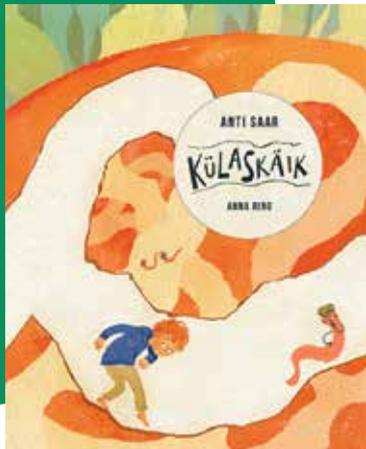
2016 5 Best-Designed Estonian
Children's Books

2016 25 Best-Designed Estonian
Books



Storybook contains ten philosophical tales of bizarre adults. Among these are Hillar, who takes a long time to work up momentum for everything he does; Vahur, who is getting ready for a complete change of scenery; Jaanus, who is enthralled by water toys; Asko, who wishes to be average at everything; Timmy, who has lost his shadow; and others. The author smoothly and spiritedly mixes fantasy with reality, resulting in an exciting and relatable read for both children and adults.





The Visit

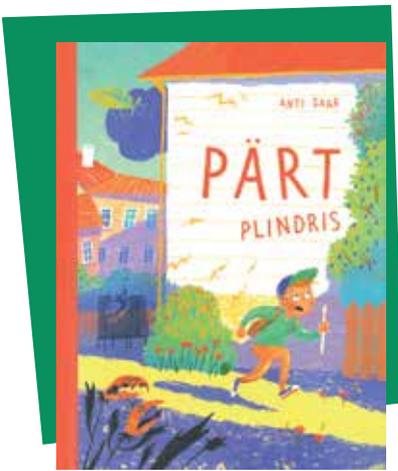
Illustrator: Anna Ring
Päike ja Pilv 2017, 24 pp
ISBN: 9789949986279
fiction, picturebook
Age: 7+

Awards:

2017 5 Best-Designed
Estonian Children's Books,
Certificate of Merit
2017 Good Children's Book

In spring, when the apple trees begin to blossom, Robby's grandmother dies. When autumn arrives and the apples are ripe on the trees, the boy decides to visit his grandfather in the countryside, even though he reckons it will be a sad trip to take alone. He and his grandfather go fishing together, play checkers and watch football on TV. Then, one evening, Robby takes a walk through the orchard. Spotting a nice-looking apple under his favourite tree, he picks it up. Yet, right as the boy is about to sink his teeth into it, he notices a little worm who beckons him to follow it into a wormhole. Inside the fruit, a whole world that summons strong memories of his grandmother starts to unfold.





Pärt in a Pickle

Illustrator: Anna Ring
Päike ja Pilv 2020, 96 pp
ISBN: 9789916951200
fiction, storybook
Age: 7+
Rights sold: Danish, Hungarian,
Latvian, Polish, Russian

Awards:

2018 Järje Hoidja Award of
the Tallinn Central Library
(*Pärt Can't Do a Backflip*)
2019 Tartu Prize for Children's
Literature (Childhood Prize),
nominee (*Pärt and Plums*,
Stay Here Pärt!, *Pärt and the
Last Piece of Cake*)
2018 Good Children's Book
(*Stay Here, Pärt!*)
2019 The White Raven
(*Stay Here Pärt!*)



A collection of five books that were previously published separately. Pärt is a clever little lad. He lives in a lovely small town with his mum, dad, his older brother Joosep, and his younger sister Leenu. Life is peaceful and happy, just sometimes things happen that Pärt is not entirely prepared for and therefore he ends up in a pickle. Like when the girl next door, Kaisa, starts to taunt him that he doesn't know how to do a backflip. Or when his dad leaves Pärt to stand in line at the store while he goes to fetch some forgotten yeast. Or when a plump plum in a stranger's yard just asks to be picked. Pärt tries hard to come up with the best solution for everything.



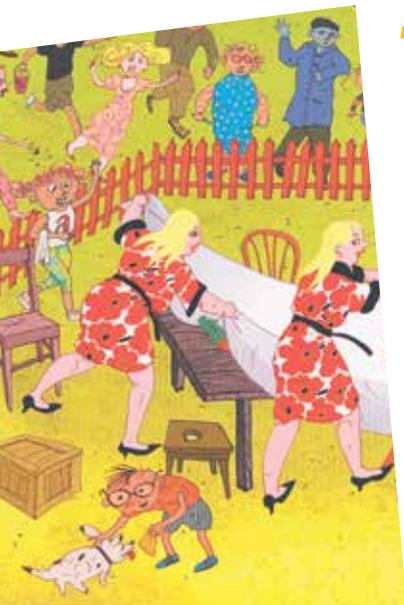
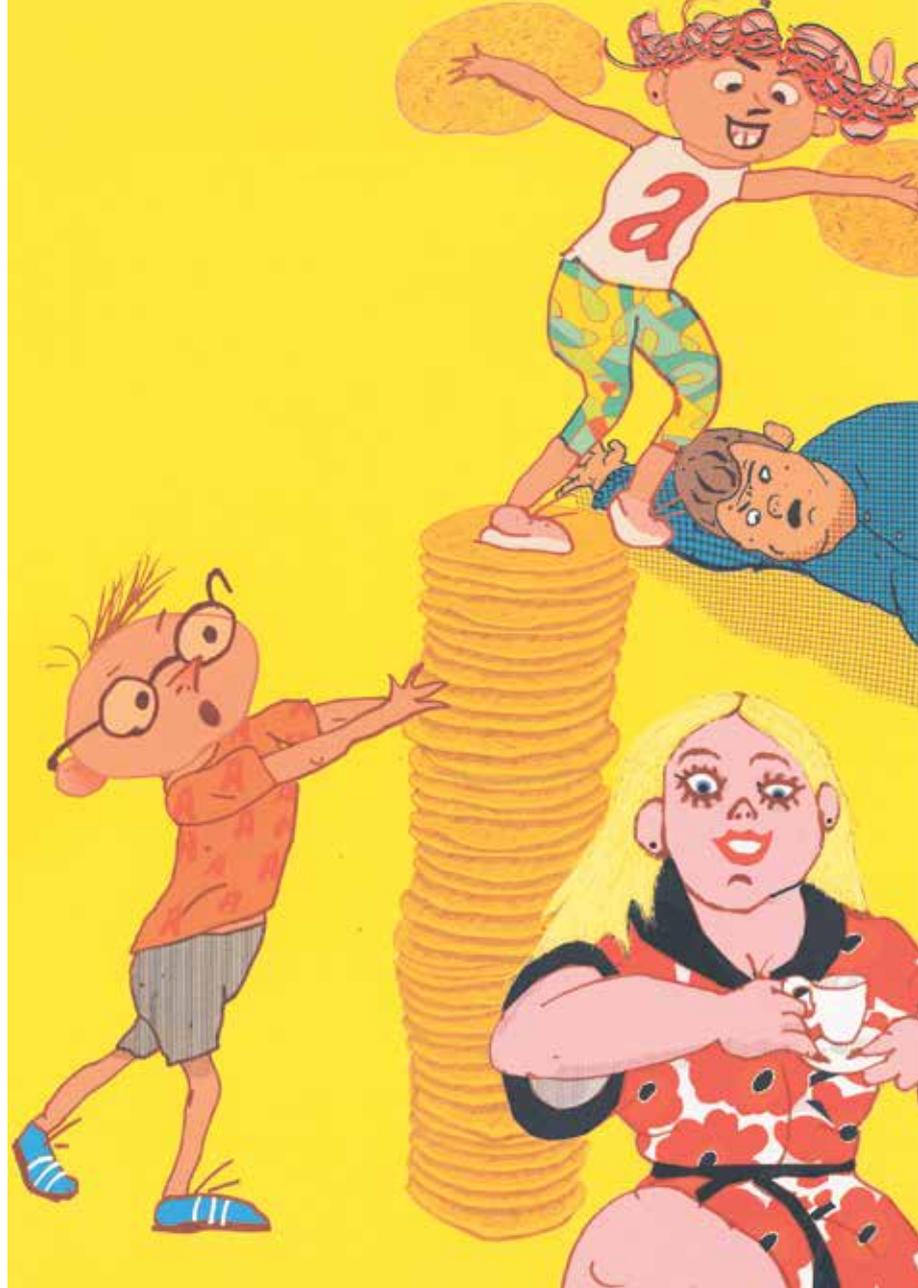
The Great Pancake-Make

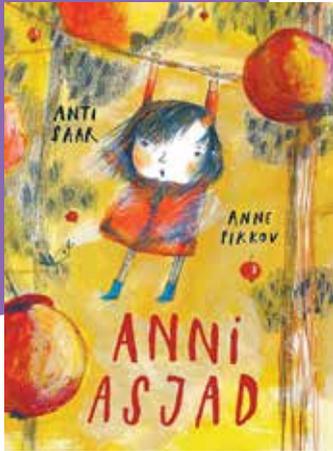
Illustrator: Olga Pärn, Märt Rudolf Pärn, Priit Pärn
Kolm Elu 2020, 48 pp
ISBN: 9789916400654
fiction, picturebook
Age: 5+

Awards:

2021 Karl Eduard Sõöt Children's Poetry Award, Readers' Choice
2021 Tartu Prize for Children's Literature, nominee
2020 Annual Children's Literature Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia, nominee
2020 Good Children's Book

While Mom and Dad are still resting from their busy week early one Saturday morning, the kids decide to make pancakes on their own. Although there are several cookbooks on the kitchen shelves, the children decide to go with their instincts and take a creative approach to making the batter. The first attempt comes out too thick, and then becomes too runny when they add more milk. By the time they get it to be just the right consistency, it fills the whole bathtub! Who on earth can make so many pancakes, and who could ever eat them all?





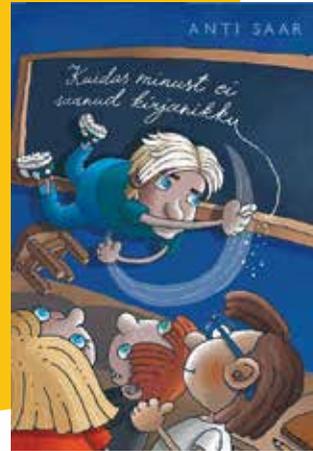
Anni's Things

Illustrator: Anne Pikkov
Kolm Elu 2020, 80 pp
ISBN: 9789949019953
fiction, storybook
Age: 5+

Awards:
2021 The White Raven
2020 Good Children's Book



Anni has a mom and a dad, and two older brothers: Ats and Saamuel. She also has a bed, a dresser, stuffed animals, and a doll house that Ats made Anni for her birthday. The little girl has a red umbrella and white slippers, and a little backpack with gum stuck to the bottom for good. But if Anni pulls the backpack over her head, she's still able to lick the sticky goo!



How I Didn't Become a Writer

Illustrator: Hillar Mets
Kolm Elu 2021, 112 pp
ISBN: 9789916404737
storybook
Age: 7+



Eleven-year-old Juhan, nicknamed Juks, loves to write more than anything. Whether it's a haiku or an adventure story, a travelogue or a newspaper article, an apothegm or a sports story, they all sound equally interesting. Yet, despite the interest, Juks never manages to finish a single story, no matter how he tries. Is it possible to become a writer if the only things you write are never-ending stories?



Anti Saar

The Pull-up Bar

From Anni's Things

Anni likes to run and jump and do somersaults, but most of all, she likes to hang on things. That's a fact! Whenever Anni spots something good to dangle from, she grabs on to it immediately and lifts her legs off the ground. She hangs from the garden gate and bus poles. And the jungle gym at the playground. And in cafés, Anni hangs from the edge of the counter so the salesperson only sees her fingers.

Whenever Anni hangs from the bookshelf at home, Dad scolds her and says: "Don't hang from that, Anni. It'll come off the wall." And when Anni hangs from the edge of the sink, her big brother Samuel warns: "Don't hang from there—it's slippery. You'll fall and get hurt. And we're supposed to be brushing our teeth right now, anyway."

Whenever Dad comes home from work and walks in through the gate, Anni wants him to pick her up. But instead of running over to him, she dangles from a branch on the apple tree and yells:

"Daddy! Daddy! Come help! There are mean sharks down there!"

Dad then runs to Anni and scoops her up in his arms.

When Anni wants Mom to read to her, she hangs from the doorknob and squeals: "Come save me! I'm going to fall off this cliff!"

Mom comes to the rescue, of course. And then, Anni says:

"Thanks, Mommy! Now, read me a chapter from Piia Biscuit!"

One time, Dad brought home a funny-looking pipe. He screwed it into the wall in Anni's bedroom and said:

"Look, Anni—this is a pull-up bar. I know you like to hang on things, and this is made just for hanging. Isn't that slick?"

"Sure is," Anni said, and hung from it for a little while. Then she hung a little longer, but it wasn't all that fun anymore.

"I think I'm not a fan of hanging anymore," Anni announced, and started tossing balloons over the pull-up bar instead.

But sometimes when no one is looking, Anni still likes to go into the bathroom and hang from the edge of the sink a little.

Excerpt translated by Adam Cullen



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