

2022
2023

**KompasGuide
Publishing
House:
New Way
of Reading
Russia**



Children's & YA books

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КомпасГид
издательский дом

TREASURES



Olga Gromova: giving voice to the children of the 1930s

For more than forty years, Olga Gromova (born 1956) had worked as a librarian and the editor-in-chief of “School Library” magazine. One day, her friend Stella Nudolskaya told her the story of her life that deserved to be written down. Olga Gromova's major role in modern Russian teen fiction is to speak out loud, through History, of eternal moral issues echoing the questions that concern today's teenagers. Her vivid and convincing writing style makes the characters live and the readers empathise with them.



Sugar Child

KompasGuide, 160 p.

In modern Russian children's literature few books become a sensation. Not every year is it possible to find a story read and discussed by almost everyone. First published in 2014, Olga Gromova's *Sugar Child* immediately became a bestseller and has since been reissued ten times.

The story begins in the 1930s. 5-year-old Elya lives a happy life in Moscow with her parents. One night, strangers come into their apartment and take her father away. Elya and her mother are sent from Moscow to Kyrgyzstan as close relatives of an “enemy of the people”. There, with other women and children, they are forced to build a camp for future detainees, in the most inhuman conditions. When the construction is over, they are liberated but have no permission to leave Kyrgyzstan. Starting a new life with no means in a foreign place is hard, looking back on happy days in Moscow is painful and meeting unknown, strange people is scary. An acquaintance from old days helps Elya's mother to get a job and finds them a small chamber. In 1941, when the war breaks between the Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, life brings new difficulties to mother and daughter who try but fail to fit in the soviet society. Elya, who is now eleven, joins the youth communist organisation but is excluded for a far-fetched purpose, that makes her doubt of the equity of the soviet system. In 1946, thanks to a falsified paper, Elya and her mother are allowed to come back to Moscow and are then rehabilitated. Many years later, Elya will learn that her father died in a camp in Magadan, in the Russian Far East, in 1940.

Despite its tough topic, the novel is bright and optimistic. It is a story of a strong girl and a strong mother, about overcoming difficulties and growing up.

The book is based on the life story of Stella Nudolskaya and her family. The story is narrated by the little protagonist herself. In the afterword, the author reveals the way she had transformed memories into a novel and some hidden meanings in her text. Eight years after it was first published, the novel is viewed as a true modern classic and still attracts attention of readers and scholars in Russia and abroad.



Edition for adults

Continued on next page →



There is also an edition for adults, containing authentic photographs and letters, a preface by **Ludmila Ulitskaya** and developed comments placing Stella's/Elya's story in historical and literary context.



Tolstoy Prize
"Yasnaya Polyana"
shortlist (2015)



historical fiction, true story, survival, Soviet era, camp, World War II, growing up, ethnicities



82 000
copies sold



Film rights:
sold

"The mother, who never gives up on her attempts to teach daughter to think for herself — and keep quiet about it — rises above the story like the sun".

Le Monde



Rights sold to

Azerbaijan, Belgium (Dutch worldwide), Bulgaria, China, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, India (Malayalam), Latvia, Lebanon, North Macedonia, South Korea, Thailand

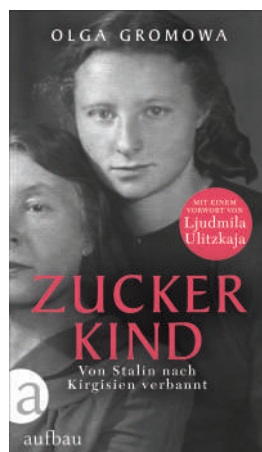
Foreign covers



South Korea



Thailand



Germany



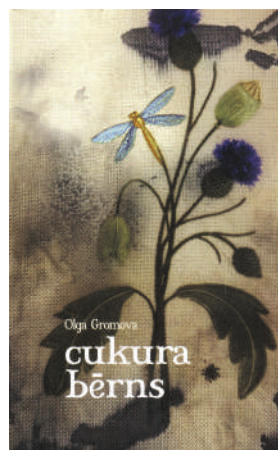
Georgia



France



Denmark



Latvia



Belgium



Maria Bershadsckaya: never-ending childhood

Graduated scriptwriter, Maria Bershadsckaya (born 1970) had written scripts for a famous Russian children's TV program as well as for cartoons and series. She has been writing poems and prose for children since 1997. Today, along with writing, Maria teaches literature in a private school, meets with her readers and leads courses in a book club.



Big Little Girl

Illustrated by Alexandra Ivoilova
KompasGuide, 256 p. and 280 p. (2-volume edition),
32-48 p. (12-volume edition)

Jenny is very tall. For the rest, she resembles all other 7-year-old girls. She hates when people stare at her or find her somehow special. The heroine tells about a year of her life, full of funny moments, unusual events, serious decisions and important discoveries. First published in 12 volumes, the stories of Jenny have recently been edited in two books.

Book 1. How to Tame a City

Jenny's family moves to a big city. The girl will soon go to school but has no friends. She decides to tame that city. She helps one of the boys who were teasing her and they become best friends.

Book 2. A Recipe of a Wonderful Day

Jenny is going to bake a pie for her father's birthday. The cooking turns out to be not so easy, because, to make a perfect pie, you have to use some unusual ingredients.

Book 3. Hare's Walk

Jenny participates in a contest for the best pet costume. To sew a hare's outfit and thrust in a dachshund is far from easy. To win, Jenny will need her fast legs and other tricks!

Book 4. Seven and a Half Crocodile Smiles

On the eve of her first school day, Jenny is sent to a dentist and is left without several teeth. At school, not only her desk but the building itself are too small for her. But Mike always comes up with something!

Book 5. 101 Ways to Get Lost in a Forest

Jenny and Mike set off for mushroom hunting and get lost in the forest. Mike has a survival book, wool socks and sandwiches, but they had to find their way home anyway.



FIRST EDITION

**Book 6. Pumpking**

Halloween is coming. Friends will have to get a giant pumpkin to school, and Jenny will invent a most unexpected outfit for the costumes' competition.

Book 7. Merry Blue Christmas

New Year's Eve is coming, but Mike's grandfather is ill. Jenny and Mike think it unfair to leave the grandfather with no feast and will find extraordinary ways to cheer him up.

Book 8. The Chequered Bag Case

An abandoned dog lies, sad and lonely, on a chequered bag and doesn't allow anyone to approach. Jenny, Mike and others become detectives to find out whom the bag belongs to and what happened.

Book 9. It's All About Love

Valentine's Day is coming. Even if Jenny finds all this fuss about greeting cards a silly business, she is afraid not to receive one. She is concerned about her sister Anny who quarrelled with her sweetheart and learns that they are going to have another brother or sister.

Book 10. Pushkin & Co

Sonya knows everything about Pushkin, the greatest poet of all times. She decides to play "A Prisoner", chains herself to the window, dials a code... but forgets it! To free her, Jenny and Mike will have to decipher the code, which is, of course, related to Pushkin.

Book 11. Polka-dotted Jeans

Jenny and Mike go to the amusement park in the neighbouring city. The boy wants to offer a gift to his father but doesn't have enough money. Jenny knows a secret that brings chance, but unexpected things always happen in an unknown city.

Book 12. Warning! There's a Birthday!

Jenny is turning 8! This year May 13th happens to be a Friday. Should she believe it is a bad sign? Should she be angry with her parents, gone in a hurry to the maternity hospital? But her friends come, even those who she hadn't invited, and Friday 13th is going to be an unforgettable day!

TAGS:

school, friendship, parent-child relationship, sibling relationship, funny stories, overcoming difficulties, growing up

**Rights sold to**

China, Czech Republic,
Germany, Vietnam



Over 157 000
copies sold



Victoria Lederman: genuine page-turner

Victoria Lederman (born 1970) can be called a modern classic of children's literature. Her novels are loved by readers and awarded by professional juries. Light style and action-packed plot are the distinctive features of her prose. A mixture of realism and sci-fi elements enables the writer to bring to light the issues modern teenagers are dealing with as well as the importance of human relations in today's world. Her stories are witty and optimistic. They show that no matter how difficult the problem is, there is always a solution.



The May(a) Calendar

KompasGuide, 224 p.

During the summer holidays, a group of teenagers goes for an excursion to an archaeological camp. The main attraction there is an ancient wall discovered only a month ago, in May. When nobody sees them, two boys and a girl engrave the date of their visit on it. Later, back to their hometown, they notice that they are going back in time, day by day. Instead of going on to tomorrow, they go back to yesterday.

To start moving to the future again, the characters decide they have to correct the mistakes they made in the past. When they see that their attempts are vain, the three protagonists understand that their only fault was to vandalise the ancient wall. They want to erase their inscription, but each day they risk going too far back in time, when the wall hadn't been excavated yet. They will have to play as a team — otherwise they will become babies again and disappear completely.

The teenagers leave their hometown and go to the archaeological site. But, as they are in the past, their inscription is not there yet. Instead, they discover an enigmatic hieroglyph. To decipher it could enable them to get back to their time, but they will have to seek help to do it from an unexpected source.

This story of time-travelling filled with adventures focuses on subjects that matter for all today's teenagers: friendship, relationship with parents and believing in one's self. Written in a very light and entertaining style, *The May(a) Calendar* is a genuine page-turner that has gained thousands of readers in Russia and abroad.

The official release of a movie based on this novel is planned for May 2022.

10+



Krapivin International Prize shortlist (2014)



117 000 copies sold



Film rights: movie released (2022)

TAGS:

time travel, school life, growing up, friendship, overcoming difficulties

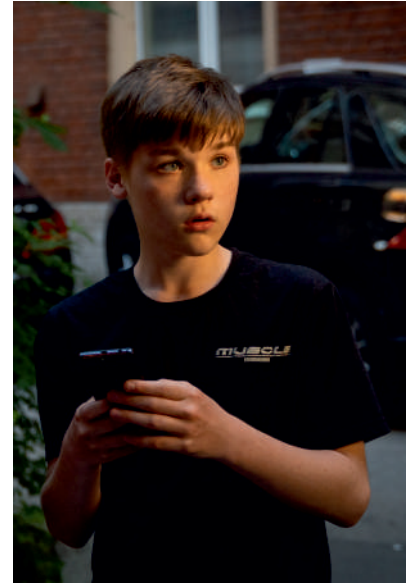


Rights sold to

Georgia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, South Korea, Turkey, Ukraine

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MOVIE SET PICTURES





Svetlana and Nikolay Ponomarev:

retrofuturism against prejudice

Svetlana and Nikolay Ponomarev live in Omsk, in Siberia. They both have a degree in social pedagogics and psychology. Their novels got recognition for being both entertaining and profound and describing any complex subject with the right words all teenagers can relate to. Nikolay Ponomarev's books have been twice included in the White Ravens list of the Munich International Youth Library.



The City without War

KompasGuide, 328 p.

The postwar dystopia is seen through the eyes of a former military school student. His school is an excellent example of the institution whose graduates are true officers ready to die for the best city in the world and its Leader. But 15-year-old Sasha gets expelled when his best friend is charged with treason and Sasha is believed to be his accomplice. He becomes a mercenary trooper to earn some money and does the dirtiest job — this is when he discovers the hard truth about the City. It is surrounded not by enemies but by residents of other degraded cities, similarly brainwashed and deprived of any future. But rumour has it that if you get through the outposts you can reach a wonderful city where there is no war and the sun never goes down...

Svetlana and Nikolay Ponomarev's book has a retro futuristic setting: the characters are living in a world that is reminiscent of Russia or Eastern Europe, but their life is full of details and things typical for the late 1970s. In this world, it seems the Internet and cell phones were never invented and military career is considered to be the most prestigious. But who is waging the war and for what reason? What makes the Leader and citizens waste more than 15 years shooting, building outposts and looking for spies?

Sasha faces many trials, ends up on the verge of death and makes many reckless mistakes before he starts seeing the difference between real friends and hypocrites, valour and betrayal, his own thoughts and imposed stereotypes. For him, maturing means getting rid of political, psychological and common prejudice of any kind.

TAGS:

city, dystopia, future, survival, war, searching for yourself, growing up, maturing



Rights sold to

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, India (Malayalam),
UAE (Arabic worldwide)



Nina Dashevskaya: inspiring tale rooted in reality

Writer and musician Nina Dashevskaya (born 1979) has won all Russian literary contests worth mentioning, has been included in White Ravens (2017) and IBBY (2020) lists and is a regular nominee for Astrid Lindgren Prize. Her books are translated into foreign languages. Nina Dashevskaya is also one of the most adapted for the stage children's writers in Russia. Her prose is acclaimed for its musical sense and psychological accuracy — the way she gives voice to her characters' thoughts is literally flawless.



Willy

Illustrated by Eugenia Dvoskina
KompasGuide, 112 p.

Sebbie is 10 years old, but he never had a bicycle. One day, he comes across an advertisement selling a bike in a newspaper. When he comes to the seller, it happens to be a girl named Augustina, tall and shy, dressed like a boy but loving cooking and very nice. She lives alone in a house with a garden while her parents travel to other cities because they are actors and there is no theatre in their own town. Sebbie turns out to be the only visitor to be able to hear Augustina's bicycle speak, which means he can become its new owner. It speaks indeed! And its name is Willy.

With his talking bike, Sebbie circles around the neighbourhood and rides on it to school. Willy takes Seb to unusual places like the City of the lost things. It helps the boy to overcome his shyness and to make friends. Thanks to a school bicycle competition, he makes closer acquaintance with two of his classmates, the tall and smart Mark and a boy nicknamed Mosquito. They discover that each of them has a talent and is special in his own way, but their friendship will be tempted several times.

One day, Sebbie stops hearing Willy, his mother doesn't believe in his new friends and he starts believing himself that he had invented everything. But friends don't leave him for too long in his low moments. The most precious for the boy is the support of his father, who, being an adult, has remained a dreamer. And Augustina won't have to go away with her parents, because a theatre is going to be built in their town.

The heartwarming story about a boy and a bicycle ran into 5 editions.

TAGS:

bicycle, miracle, school, friendship, parent-child relationship



Krapivin International Prize (2014)



Rights sold to
Azerbaijan, China, Ukraine



28 000
copies sold



Natalia and Andrei Snegiryov: first Soviet comic strip

In the late 1980s, Natalia and Andrei Snegiryov were among the first to promote comics in Russia. From a newspaper editorial office and meetings of comics-lovers in a Moscow apartment were born comics for early readers some of which are still reprinted today. Painters and illustrators, the Snegiryovs are also happy owners of many pets whose character and habits serve them as the source of inspiration for their stories and drawings. Whatever this couple creates is full of vitality and love of life.



Keshka. All the Stories about the Extraordinary Cat

- All Eyes on Keshka
- Keshka Hunts for a Christmas Tree
- Keshka's Summer Vacation
- Keshka Has No Brakes

KompasGuide, 192 p. or 48 p. per volume

Keshka in Russia is like Tintin in Belgium and France and the Moomins in Finland. It resembles Simon's Cat and Mickey Mouse, but Russian cultural features remain clearly distinctive. For generations, readers have been falling in love with the Russian comics' most popular talking cat, who recently celebrated his 30th anniversary.

Comic strips about Keshka first appeared in Soviet newspaper "Family" in January 1991. Every week children waited for their parents to bring a new issue, cut out the strips and collected them in folders. In the 21st century, KompasGuide reissued the complete collection of stories about Keshka, first in four volumes, then in one hardcover edition. Especially for the books, the Snegiryovs reworked the text and smoothed the visual style to make it suitable for modern children. In all, there are around 90 short and long episodes featuring, alongside the main character, his owner and other animals: Keshka hunts mice in his apartment, organises a race on a washing machine, travels to the North and even makes a journey to the Moon...

Funny, lively, cunning and slightly narcissistic, Keshka has not aged. He makes today's children and parents laugh like 30 years ago. The books are perfect for family reading and a great way to learn to read. Colourful pictures, brief and easy texts, lots of action and good humour make the comics about Keshka a perfect choice for parents looking for a book their child will get immersed in for a long time.



English
translation
available



73 000
copies sold



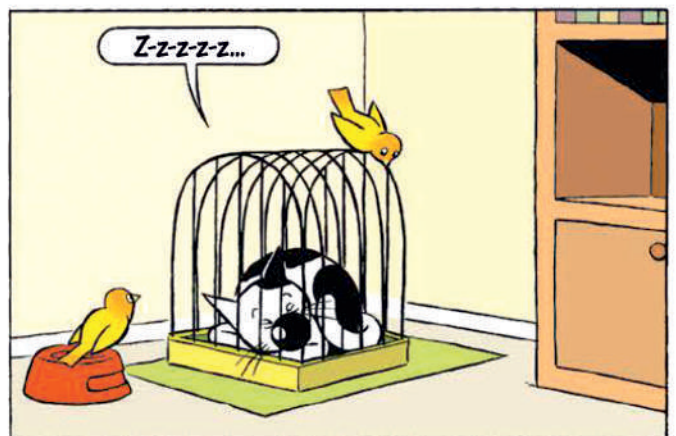
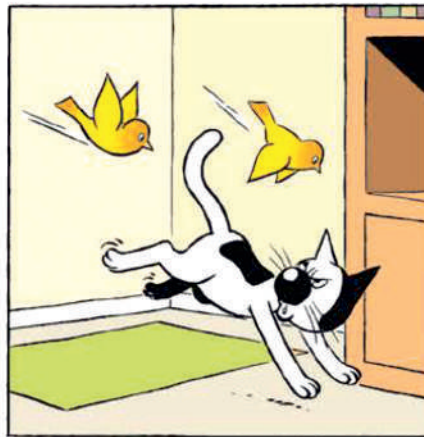
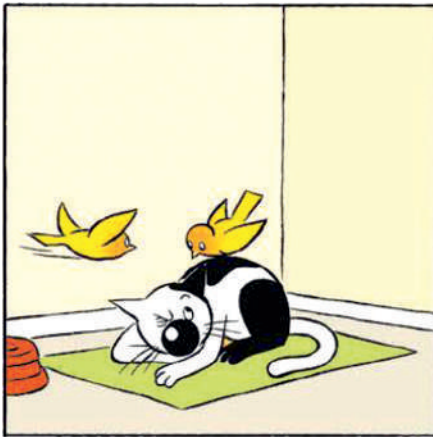
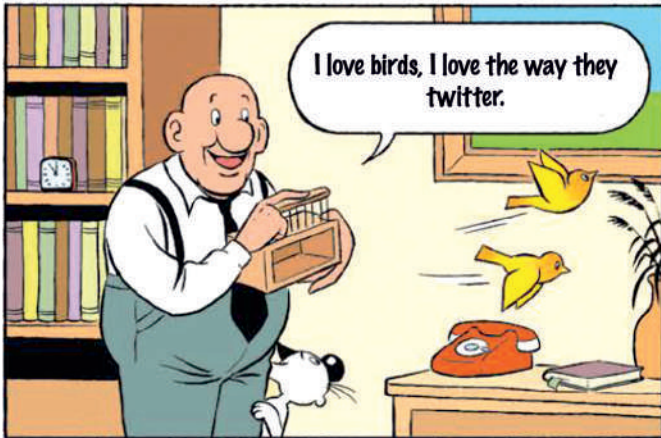
Rights sold to
Switzerland
(French worldwide)

TAGS:

comics, cat, animals, pets, pet-owner relationship, funny stories

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Busy Birdies



NEW



КомпасГид
издательский дом

NEW RELEASES

ASES

Olga Gromova:

honestly about the past

For more than forty years, Olga Gromova (born 1956) had worked as a librarian and the editor-in-chief of “School Library” magazine. One day, her friend Stella Nudolskaya told her the story of her life that deserved to be written down. Olga Gromova's major role in modern Russian teen fiction is to speak out loud, through History, of eternal moral issues echoing the questions that concern today's teenagers. Her vivid and convincing writing style makes the characters live and the readers empathise with them.



Walchen

Illustrated by Greta Berlin
KompasGuide, 424 p.

June 1941. 12-year-old Valya and 16-year-old Natasha make plans for the future and enjoy spending time with their families and friends. The war breaks in the quiet course of summer days. The Hitler's army crosses the borders of the Soviet Union and occupies the city. The days preceding and life during the occupation are full of preventions and terrible events hard to live through for an adolescent's mind. Worse than fear and hunger is the discovery made by both girls that people can be divided on superior and inferior grades and a life can be destroyed or even taken if, for some reason, one happens to belong to the wrong type.

On a day of 1942, Valya and her elder friend are deported to Germany and become *Ostarbaiters*. That was a Nazi designation for foreign slave workers gathered from occupied Central and Eastern Europe to perform forced labor. In the train, the girls meet other inhabitants of their city, all of different ages and nationalities. To stay human in the conditions fit for beasts turns out to be a difficult task and freedom, worth risking one's life.

Observing the pretty and wealthy town they arrived in, the captives wonder how a civilised country, where people live better than they used to live at home, could give birth to the most inhuman ideology ever. But the truth will turn out not as univocal as it could have seemed. Friends will be found between enemies and persons worse than enemies, between friends. Retired German officer Uwe Hoffman takes the most feeble workers to his manor as if for housework, actually sparing them a day of hard labour in the camp. When Natasha and others are sold one day to the factory owner, a farmer unexpectedly chooses Valya. In spite of the danger they risk for infringing the war laws, Klaus Sholtz, his wife Martha and their three children treat the girl as a family member. They give her a new, more German-like, name: Walchen.

When it becomes evident that Germany will lose the war, Walchen witnesses with pain and horror the bombings of German cities by British forces. She doesn't enjoy the triumph over enemies

Continued on next page →



when the same innocent civilians as those buried under the Nazi bombs in her hometown die. When the war is over, Walchen is torn between her German family, with Klaus's eldest son Tilman she loves, and her homeland where she had left her mother and brother. Even the knowledge that in the Soviet Union all war prisoners are considered traitors to the motherland can't hold her back from returning.

Valya will meet the Sholtz children again in 1990, when the Berlin wall will have fallen and the USSR will soon cease to exist. But is it possible to cross a forty years gap and bring the feelings back?

The novel is written in an incredibly dynamic and vivid manner. While Valya's view of the events is related by the author, Natasha has a diary to which she confides her thoughts and feelings. Two voices, of a kid and of a young girl, mingle and complete each other. They don't tell us about crucial events and battles of World War II but depict the way war affects life of ordinary civilians, forgotten for decades by historians. To make tribute to them, Olga Gromova has written not about glorious pages of war but about life under Occupation and in captivity. Showing it day by day, almost hour by hour, she achieves absolute veracity thanks to her ample research which had taken five years. The writer had studied numerous historical sources among which are diaries of ordinary people who lived in the wartime and especially of the adolescents, letters of *Ostarbaiters* and German war prisoners in the Soviet Union, soviet and foreign newspapers and operational summaries. All these documents as well as the meetings with the witnesses of those events enabled Olga Gromova to show the war from inside and to bring to light little-known or willingly forgotten historical facts and details. To remind that cruelty and violence can not and should not be justified by anything, she openly writes about crimes and injustices committed by all sides of the conflict.

But *Walchen* is worthy to count among the masterpieces of modern teen fiction not only because of its historical veracity. It stays true to human and especially adolescents' psychology and contains scenes able to make one cry, not only of sorrow but also of joy. This brilliantly written, powerful book will please today's young readers, aware as they are of the problems of the modern world and unwilling to cope with injustice, whichever source it would come from.

The book was acclaimed by different media such as MEL Magazine and RIA NOVOSTI news agency.

TAGS:

true story, History, World War II, Occupation, Ostarbeiters, Holocaust, deportation, captivity, growing up, freedom, camp



Book of the Year nominee (2021)



Children's of St-Petersburg Region Choice (2021)



Anna Zenkova: literary discovery 2020

Graduated economist and mother of three, Anna Zenkova (born 1984) in three years of her active literary career has already won twice the prestigious Krapivin International Prize. Anna carefully listens to what teens say and observes the way they speak, that's why her prose, written from a kid's perspective, strikes by its exceptional verisimilitude. She doesn't divide characters into good and bad ones: in her books, there is always room for circumstances and personal choice.



12+



Krapivin International
Prize (2021)

The Scorpion Kick

KompasGuide, 392 p.

An ordinary day. Renat goes to the stadium to play football with his father. They hadn't even started, when a terrible blow bursted out. It is only in the hospital that Renat realises that their quarter was bombarded, his father is dead and he has no leg. These news altogether are such a heavy burden for the 13-year-old boy that he is sure that life isn't worth living anymore.

With his mother and little twins, Renat goes from Ukraine to Belarusian countryside, where he meets his relatives from the father's side he has never heard of before. He feels duped, thinks no one understands his grief for his lost father and the prosthetic leg hurts awfully. The boy doesn't spare anyone his anger and bitterness, not even his mother who turns out to be pregnant. But he will learn anew to live and to love thanks to an unexpected meeting. One day, Renat discovers that his grandfather's brother keeps a real wolf in the backyard. From the beginning he feels a special link between him and the wild, abandoned beast. More than to tame it, he will have to gain its trust.

Having gone through pain, loss and despair but also thanks to the feeling of responsibility for others and to love from the newfound family, Renat will be able to overcome complexes linked to his handicap and to believe in life. He tells us his story himself, revealing his thoughts, doubts, fears, hopes and joys. Far from political considerations, Anna Zenkova reminds that what a child waits most to receive from adults is honesty and respect.

TAGS:

loss of a parent, handicap, loss of a member, post-traumatic memories, wolf, family relationships, friendship



10+



Krapivin International
Prize (2019)

Best Greetings from Fyokla

KompasGuide, 360 p.

11-year-old Seva has no relatives but Fyokla, who found him one day in a scrapyard and had since been taking care of him. When Fyokla suddenly dies, Seva is left all alone once again. Far from being sad and hard to read, the book will make the readers smile and laugh. In his head, Seva keeps talking with Fyokla, who becomes his adviser, consoler and voice of conscience. Through their imaginary dialogues the reader will learn how kind and wise Fyokla was and how tough was her life story.

After Fyokla's death, Seva lives in an orphanage. At the beginning, he fails to make friends with anyone and even meet enemies, but one day he meets ginger-haired Maya who plays cello. For holidays, children from the orphanage go to a summer camp. There begin true adventures, intrigues and conflicts. When Seva and a boy named Rusty get lost in the forest, their life will depend on whether they will be able to overcome mutual dislike.

Having found friends and gained self-confidence, Seva will let Fyokla go. But he will never forget her, because she has illuminated his life. Light and life-affirming, the novel reminds young readers that even in the most difficult circumstances it is important to stay human.

TAGS:

adventure, death of a friend, foster care, friendship, orphanhood



12+

Gregory – No Patronymic Name – Babochkin

KompasGuide, 336 p.

Hermann and Gregory are both 14 years old but as unlike each other as possible. One is the unspoken class leader, a hockey player and girls' favourite. The other is a poet, a zany in a suit and an object of ridicule. They will discover in each other what they lack themselves. Hermann will prove himself sensitive and considerate and Gregory will act as strong and brave. Their unexpected friendship will help them get over stress before a competition, family problems or mockery. First love will separate them but not for a long time.

The book is written in the form of two alternating audio diaries recorded by the two boys during a school year as homework. The reader will witness the progressive change of the attitude of the characters toward each other, compassionate with them having difficulties and laugh recognising the situations happening between classmates. A simple story progressively transforms into an action-packed one and proves that friendship is the most powerful force even when someone takes up a gun.

TAGS:

school, relations in a class, friendship, parent-child relationship, first love, talent, school shooting



Personal File of Savely Puzikov

KompasGuide, 416 p.

The main character has a cold head but a warm heart. He is fearless and determined. For the rest, Sevely is an ordinary 10-year-old lad. He trains his public speaking skills, is partial to bakers' confectionery, lives in a flat with his granny speaking four languages and misses his parents and younger sisters who stayed in the countryside where the air is cleaner.

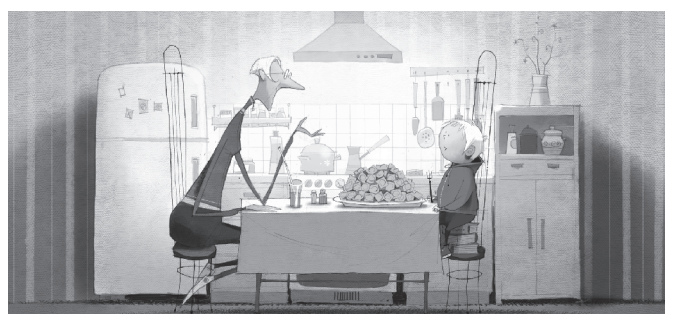
Savely dreams of discovering his superpower that will enable him to make the world better. At the first opportunity he climbs the tree to rescue a cat, rushes to save his grandmother from a Dreadful Black Figure, bravely faces an Asian mafioso in an intellectual battle and comes out victorious from the fight against a Brazilian cannibal bear. Suddenly, Savely discovers being a figment of someone's imagination. He starts questioning himself whether it is true or he has his own free will.

The adventures of an extraordinary superhero represent light and inspiring reading. The novel makes readers think over the meaning of life and the importance of personal choice.

Illustrated by Alexei Vainer

TAGS:

superhero, courage, free will, wit, creativity, personal development





Daria Polukarova: noteworthy debut

Graduated journalist Daria Polukarova (born 1991) worked with children and adolescents. It was then that she realised that she wanted to invent stories for young readers. She believes that today's adolescents yearn to recognise themselves in book characters and are looking for reading about problems that really worry them instead of receiving adults' disguised advice or admonitions. She applies these principles in her writing, and that's why KompasGuide decided to publish her debut novel awarded the Teenager N Prize.



14+

Call Me Jean Miller

KompasGuide, 326 p.

17-year-old Jane seems to live in a bubble. Life is something that happens to others while she feels like a simple observer. When the outside world interferes with her life, she tries to escape from problems. Jane is not interesting at all — that's what her classmates and even parents, a theatre director and a designer, say to her face. Their daughter is a disappointment, they say, she lacks creativity. She is not into anything: she collects movies and series, translates songs, listens to music and likes reading — neither of which is a proper hobby. Jane is aware of it herself. In her English essay she confesses: "I have no dreams".

One day, Jane witnesses a strange scene: the stepbrother of her classmate Arthur hands over to a suspicious-looking guy a bag with something red inside. The next day all the school discusses nothing else but the missing red Converse shoes of one schoolboy. What did Jane really see? A theft? A trick? Or something much more meaningful, that could have serious consequences even for an accidental witness?

Thanks to this seemingly insignificant event Jane will understand that she is not ordinary as she used to believe but actually has talents and dreams. She will also discover that the boy she knew for years and hardly talked to before is an interesting person.

The novel is characterised by the precision in describing human motives and intentions. It deals with the language of modern teenagers in such a way that characters speak as young readers really do.

TAGS:

inspiring story, dream, first love, coming of age, graduation, betrayal, isolation



Maria Boteva: unique language of modern teenagers

Writer, playwright and stage director Maria Boteva (born 1980) is well-known among devotees of modern children's literature in Russia and abroad. Her books have been twice included in the White Ravens list of distinguished and original children's books of the International Youth Library in Munich. Boteva excels in the genre of short story. Her writings, recommended for school reading, stand out for unusual plotlines and diverse but always self-sufficient characters.



A New Black Coat and Other Stories

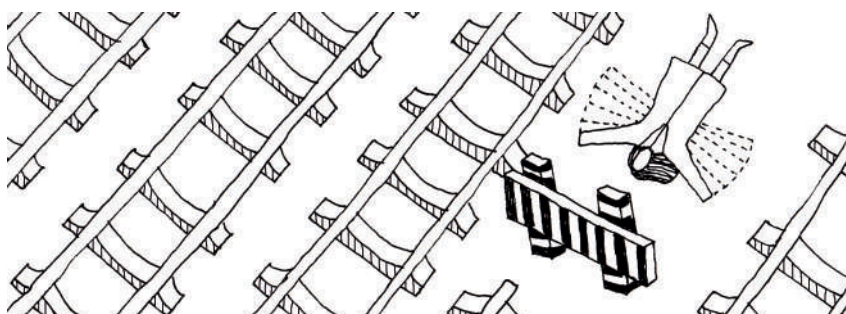
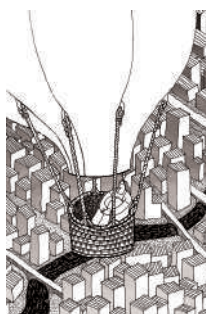
Illustrated by Olga Prankevitch
KompasGuide, 216 p.

The new book by Maria Boteva presents a life of one class and of a school archaeological club viewed by one character, Galya. She is a loner, a keen observer standing a little bit aside. She loves the archaeological club and would prefer not to go to school at all. Through her eyes, the reader sees a strange new student Cathrine, a boy nicknamed Diesel, the beloved history teacher who had almost left the school because of a misunderstanding but was persuaded by children to stay. They all turn out to be wonderful and interesting in their own way.

“Only a very bold person will dare to make a conclusion about all the turtles looking only at one. Even at two! It is not so with a person. So often we encounter in books or on the Internet reasonings about all Humanity that are based on observations of one or several persons.” What are the turtles doing here? According to Galya's theory, people are like turtles: a turtle shell outside, but inside — a gentle vulnerable body.

As usually with Maria Boteva, this book is at the same time simple and deeply philosophical. “A New Black Coat” is the title of one of the short stories. The main idea of this collection about teenagers is the necessity of empathy and caring for others. The black coat is a sort of external defence against the rude world.

TAGS: school, loneliness, friendship, hobby



Elena Boroda: short stories growing big

Writer, philologist and literary critic Elena Boroda (born 1976) has a PhD in Literature and currently teaches at the universities. Her scientific interests lie in children's and sci-fi books. She is the author of teen fiction, scientific articles and critical reviews. She twice obtained the Krapivin International Prize (2011, 2020) and was shortlisted for the Kniguru Prize (2016). Her books, written in a modern, lively language, attract teenagers as well as adults.



ZOOM. Lockdown Story

Illustrated by Nastya Khilkevich
KompasGuide, 208 p.

Elen wants to become a star. Yaroslav yearns to go to Saint Petersburg. Igor wishes the relations in his family could improve. Jane and Ira hope to successfully pass the exams and choose their profession on their own. Ivan intends to save the planet from disaster. Each of these 17-year-olds dreams of changing the world around them and of finding their place in it. One day the world changes. But not the way they wanted.

When the last school year has almost ended, the pandemic breaks out. A class switches to remote learning. The students are locked within their apartments with no distractions. They talk to their classmates in a chat or see them on a screen during Zoom sessions. At a crucial moment in their lives, remote learning will allow young girls and boys to see their classmates but also their relatives from an unexpected side and even to discover family secrets. The lockdown will reveal things that previously went unnoticed. The goal for which you would have given half your life a week ago will seem paltry and insignificant. The classmate you considered a worthless person will become your best friend. And remote communication will turn out not easier than communication in real life.

Each chapter is devoted to one character. The stories of the classmates are very different, some real, others invented. This book isn't however a collection of short stories but one integral narrative where the protagonists are connected by threads of relations, mysteries and discoveries. What secret is the beautiful Miranda hiding? Who is Ayre from the community on social network, a stranger feeling like a soul-mate to Ira? And how Ivan, usually withdrawn and not particularly interested in studies, turns out to be busy solving a global problem?

The main point of the book is that there is always a world around and within a person, even if we are forced to exist within four walls.

TAGS:

*pandemic, lockdown,
friendship, love,
family, school,
coming of age*

Nikolay Sholokhov: subculture from inside

For any Russian reader, this young author's last name is linked to literature, although he has no relation to the Nobel Prize winner. Graduated linguist and translator, Nikolay Sholokhov (born 1990) used to work as a guide, English teacher and lecturer at Saint Petersburg State University. He wrote his debut novel inspired by the life of a breakdancing community he joined in 2008. His style, that could be described as dynamic, fast-paced, straight and sharp, is combined with a deep knowledge of the subject.



Jump. Run. Freeze

KompasGuide, 216 p.

When Dima was four, he got in a car accident. His mum was badly injured. He called the emergency but was so shocked that he was unable to utter a word. He couldn't explain where they were, and the emergency car came too late to save his mum. Since then, he lost his speech and has been blaming himself for his mother's death. At the teen age, he gets interested in breakdancing. It saves him from psychological injuries: the day he meets b-boys, he realises what he really needs — the spirit of freedom the breakers enjoy in their everyday life. Unique in its style and rhythm, the novel shows the transformation of Dima from a shy Saint Petersburg teenager to the person who knows what he wants.

Jump. Run. Freeze explores the complex breakdancing subculture through Dima's attitude towards dancing and towards himself. This is at the same time a success story, an industrial novel, a psychological coming-of-age drama, a sharp, brave work of fiction with references to the world's classics, from Albert Camus' *The Stranger* to Nick Hornby's *A Long Way Down*. While writing the novel, the author was an active member of a breakdancing community and thus had a possibility to study the milieu from inside. In parallel, he was studying language disorders at the university. That gave him the idea to depict a dancer unable to express himself with words but who opens up through body language.

Long-listed by Bookscripator and Russkoye Slovo awards, the novel won the "Young Adult" nomination of Teenager N contest held by KompasGuide Publishing House. Nikolay Sholokhov has great potential and his debut work is bound to become a Russian YA sensation in 2022.

TAGS:

language disorder, overcoming difficulties, breakdancing, subculture, rap, coming of age, injury, friendship, Saint Petersburg

Irina Kravtsova and Albina Shaykhutdinova: visually innovative and socially useful

Irina Kravtsova (born 1994) is a special correspondent of the online newspaper Meduza, one of the few independent media about today's Russia. Her reports deal with acute social problems and notable events in Russia, from Moscow to small towns. Careful for details, Irina Kravtsova always places people and their lifestyles at the centre of attention. That was what attracted Albina Shaykhutdinova (born 1988), illustrator and film editor in a news agency, and gave rise to a noteworthy collaboration.



Street People

Illustrated by Albina Shaykhutdinova
KompasGuide, 104 p.

Every homeless person used to have a home. One day, something went wrong. Each time the glitch was different: scam, financial difficulties, family problems. In their graphic reportage, the author and the illustrator gathered stories of real homeless men and women. The advice of the volunteers, whose experience is also narrated in the book, will be precious for those who are willing to help. Street People is an attempt to represent homelessness not only as the absence of home but as a sign of social exclusion and to draw attention to human beings who are used to being unnoticed.

The book has grown from an article by Irina Kravtsova based on her investigations among homeless people and volunteers in Russian cities. The graphic reportage rooted in Russian reality echoes the situation in any country where the problem of homelessness exists. It also touches on deeper issues of interpersonal relationships and rising inequalities in modern society. The book aims to attract the attention of the young generation concerned with social issues and eager to make the world a better place.

Albina Shaykhutdinova: "One day, I came across an article about homeless people. I was impressed by the fact that this can happen to anybody. Today, you are in a warm apartment but tomorrow you are already rummaging in waste containers looking for something to eat, catching disapproving looks on you. I wanted to convey this idea to each and everyone, to make people understand that the homeless are humans as we are."



TAGS:

homeless people, volunteering, humanity, help, graphic reportage



Shortlisted for the Moscow International Comics Festival "KoMMissia" (2021)

Presented to Bologna Ragazzi Award (2022)

Continued on next page →



Как будто есть мы — целеустремленные, умные, сильные, и есть они — ленивые и безвольные, которые сами выбрали пить, попрошайничать и ничего не делать. Я, видимо, считала, что они уже родились такими.



Меня, пятнадцатилетнюю, потрясло от осознания, что все бездомные, которых я часто вижу на улице, когда-то были такими же, как я, — домашними людьми. Они пили по утрам чай, ходили в школу, ездили на реку, мечтали о новом платье и велосипеде, ложились спать в мягкую чистую постель и любили есть торты.

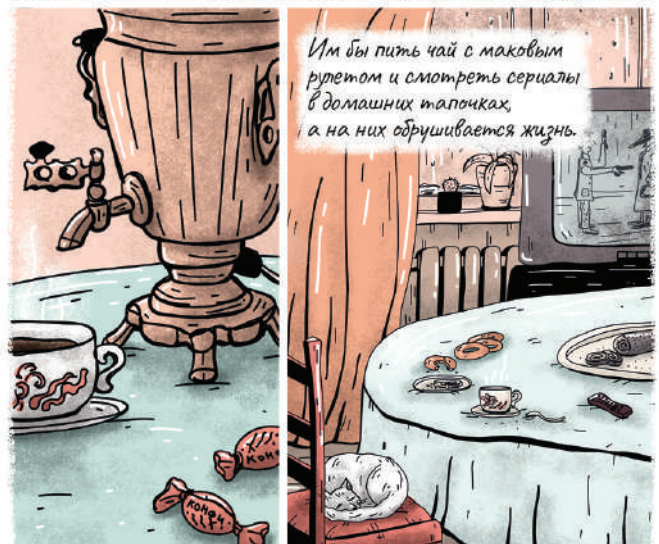
А потом что-то сломалось, и они не справились с управлением — и оказались на улице.



Редко кого из будущих бездомных удастся удержать в момент, когда он только начинает падать: заболевает, теряет работу, начинает брать микрозаймы и утолять душевную боль алкоголем.



С некоторыми людьми происходит страшное, а они совсем не умеют давать отпор и решать возникшие проблемы.



Им бы пить чай с маковым рулетом и смотреть сериалы в домашних тапочках, а на них обрушивается жизнь.

TEEN



КомпасГид
издательский дом

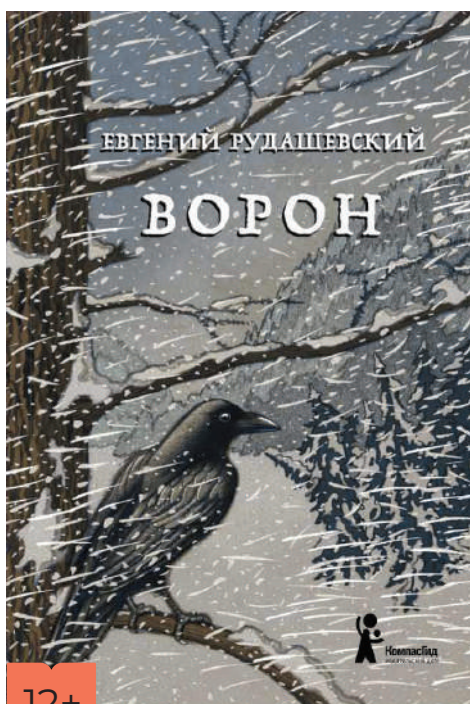
***TEENS
AND YOUNG ADULTS***

& YA



Eugene Rudashevsky: adventure-seeker, nature lover, wordsmith

Eugene Rudashevsky's biography (born 1987) is as exciting as his stories. He worked as a guide in the Siberian taiga, studied in the US, travelled through most amazing places. This writer loves experimenting and is not afraid to switch from one genre to another. He is the laureate of prestigious literary awards in Russia and was included in the White Ravens list (2017). Nature, ecology and preservation of cultures and languages of indigenous small-numbered peoples are among his main concerns.



12+

The Raven

KompasGuide, 176 p.

14-year-old Dima was raised by his mother and is looking to find his place in the men's world. One day, he joins his uncle and his friends on their trip to taiga. Uncle Nikolay reads traces on the snow like J.F. Cooper's characters. Artemych masterfully cracks jokes and keeps up a mundane urban conversation, but the taiga feels like home to him. Vitya has a tragic past, a remedy to which he seeks in hunting. At first, Dima seeks the approval of these strong men, desires to resemble them and to prove he is not a child anymore. But when they ask him to go hunting, he realises being unable to kill animals. The character stands up for his opinion to the grown-ups, - and it is then that he really becomes an adult. He understands that one can grow without harming anyone and anything and represents a new generation for which adulthood is no more a synonym of physical strength and dominance.

The Raven is a novel about maturing and a manifesto against hunting. It was included in the list of the White Ravens Festival of the International Youth Library in Munich and awarded "Commander's Choice" at the Krapivin International Prize.

TAGS:

teens-adults relationship, maturing, people and animals, animal ethics, adventure, Siberia, love



Kniguru Prize
(2017)



Rights sold to
Italy, UAE
(Arabic worldwide)



Krapivin International
Prize (2017)



My Brother Bzou. The Path of Kumutkan

KompasGuide, 496 p.

Printed under one cover, the two stories present dissimilar characters but they both spotlight the fragility of nature and childhood against the cruelty so often inherent to adults' world. They are also about friendship and taking care of animals.

Full of details of life in a fishermen's village on the Black Sea coast, rich in folklore and mythological elements, Eugene Rudashevsky's debut book "Hello My Brother Bzou" immediately became a teenage fiction sensation. This is a heartwarming story of an unusual friendship between 17-year-old fisherman Amza and a dolphin Bzou. In this Abkhazian village people used to live according to the same traditions as centuries ago, to labour the earth and build the fire in the centre of the summer kitchen. But 1980 comes and the Soviet Union sends its troops to Afghanistan. Amza is enrolled as a conscript soldier. His brother promises him to take care of Bzou. Letters announcing the death of its inhabitants start to arrive to the village. Fates of the young man and the dolphin appear to be surprisingly entwined.

TAGS:

dolphin, people and animals, sea, Afghan war, 1980s, wartime, coming of age



Kniguru Prize
(2013)



Rights sold to
UAE (Arabic worldwide)

In "The Path of Kumutkan", the events take place in Irkutsk, one of the largest cities of Siberia. Kumutkan is an inexperienced and vulnerable seal baby. As vulnerable as 13-year-old Maxim, left by his mum, gone to follow some buddhist courses, and surrounded by weird people whose motives are not clear to him. Reality and imagination are intertwined in Maxim's world, but one day he and his friends Ayuna and Sasha will see that the game turns into life full of obstacles and difficulties. They will have to survive in the glaces of Baikal lake and prevent dangerous experiments on animals, standing against adults.

The story brings to light the life of modern Irkutsk teenagers and the multinational character of Siberian courtyards. Childhood appears as a time of adventures and the courtyard — as a battlefield. An Irkutsk native, the author describes with accuracy the exotics having become a daily routine for the protagonists.

TAGS:

friendship, growing up, ecology, animal ethics, survival novel, Siberia



Kniguru Prize
(2016)



The City of the Sun

Tetralogy: *The Eyes of Death / The God's foot / The Call of the Blood / The Heart of the Dark*

Illustrated by Greta Berlin

KompasGuide, 368 p., 352 p., 344 p., 432 p.

Just like the covers of four books make a single image together, their plots unite in a single storyline filled with mysteries, adventures and endless discoveries.

19-year-old journalism student Max finds a curious painting in an old mansion in Moscow. Suspicious people are ready for everything to get this work by an unknown master. On the ancient canvas, Max notices a hint that might help him find the City of the Sun and probably his missing father, who had told him about this place. To sort it all out, Max and his friends start their investigation. In search of the legendary city they will have to make a dangerous journey through Eurasia and South America. They will first set off to Sri Lanka, then to India and Peru to end their wanderings in the Amazon rainforest. They will solve mysteries, decipher ancient codes, escape from wild animals and malevolent people.

In this tetralogy, the action-packed plot line is intricately entwined with psychological depth. Both entertaining and informative, it is a breathtaking reading for 14-year-olds and that will enable them to learn a lot about the history and geography of the world's most surprising places.

TAGS:

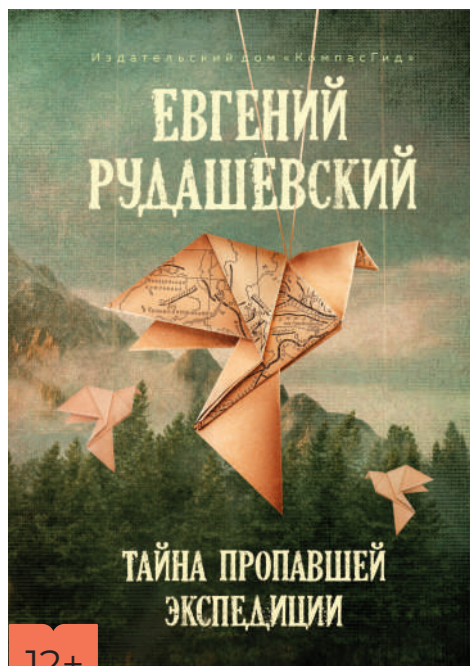
mystery, detective story, adventure, journey, ancient civilizations, students' life, friendship, first love, parent-child relationship



12 000
copies sold



Rights
sold to
UAE
(Arabic
worldwide)



12+

The Secret of the Lost Expedition

Illustrated by Greta Berlin
KompasGuide, 368 p.

Artem is 14 years old. His grandfather, famous scientist and geologist Korchagin, went missing a year ago during an expedition to the mountains. One day, Artem's mother receives a message from the past: her father's letter with a return address. This address indicates the last place Korchagin stayed in. Artem gets into a detective story: the house is in a mess; someone was definitely looking for something! He starts his own investigation and finds a secret room with notes, drawings, maps, gold nuggets and a mysterious jade figurine. The notes mention the gold of Demin, a legendary prison camp fugitive, and caves full of treasures.

Artem's parents organise an expedition to the Sayan Mountains in Siberia, expecting to find the grandfather. Artem's father invites several scientists to accompany them and, once in place, hires several guides: Fedor Kuzmitch, his sons and a Mongolian named Jambyl with his daughter Solongo. During the journey in the mountains, it turns out that the intentions of not all members of the expedition are noble. Greediness destroys relations and engenders betrayal.

The Secret of the Lost Expedition is probably the most action-packed novel by Eugene Rudashevsky. The main protagonist, who is of the age of the readers, gets into an extreme adventure, finds himself on the verge of death, falls in love, discovers inexplicable mysteries and loses someone he cares about. He does not become happier but gets more mature as the real world reveals to him. The impeccable writing style helps the readers not to get lost among a dozen colourful characters and to enjoy the flow of the story. Precise details enable the author to convey the unique atmosphere of the mountains of Siberia that he had himself visited and explored many times.

TAGS:

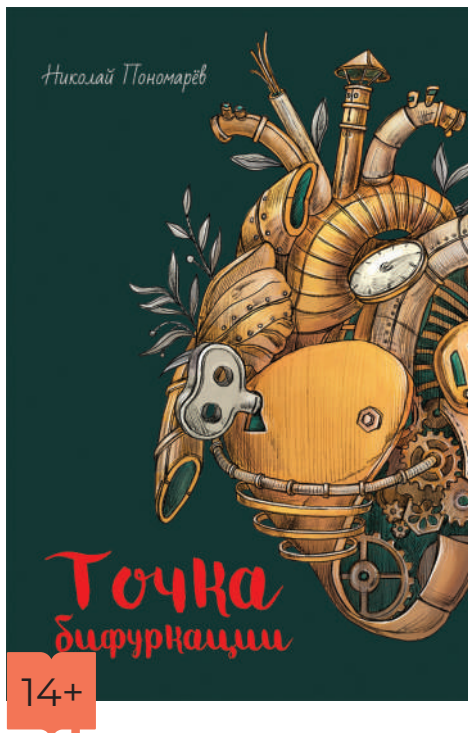
adventure novel, parent-child relationship, maturing, lost world, gold hunting, Siberia



Rights sold to
UAE (Arabic worldwide)

Nikolay Ponomarev: mastering different genres

Often writing in duo with his wife Svetlana, Nikolay Ponomarev has also signed several books on his own. Two of them have been included in the White Ravens list of the International Youth Library in Munich. Ponomarev successfully switches from brutal post-apocalyptic novel to young adult romance and from young adult fiction to time-travel stories for middle-graders.



The Bifurcation Point

KompasGuide, 344 p.

When has Timothy's life changed forever? At the very beginning of the tenth grade, when he was 17. One morning, on the seats at the back of a bus. At first, he didn't realise this was the bifurcation point after which nothing would be the same. It wasn't even a meeting, just a quick glance. Then there was the name: Marina. And all that followed.

The teacher said this would be a special year. She was right. But instead of cramming, looking for a future job and winning dance competitions Timothy experiences ten months of happiness — the months of first love. The love that makes him want to scream — if only Marina could hear him.

The Bifurcation Point is a psychologically deep book focused on living and feeling “in the moment” that proves Nikolay Ponomarev can tell captivating stories across genres. It seems as different as it can be from *The City Without War*, a dystopian novel he co-authored with his wife Svetlana, or *290 Million Years Ago and Beyond*, his sci-fi story about time travel to the distant past.

TAGS:

coming of age, first love, friendship, school, deafness, searching for yourself, dancing, partner dance



Krapivin International
Prize shortlist (2019)

Dmitry Ishchenko: finding your way

Dmitry Ishchenko (born 1971) lives in Murmansk, one of the biggest northern cities of Russia. He used to work as a journalist, screenwriter and documentary director. Today, he is known to the large audience as the author of strikingly modern and deeply philosophical novels for teenagers. His stories demonstrate profundity worthy of classic children's literature.



11+

Searching for the God of Boyhood

Illustrated by Masha Sudovykh
KompasGuide, 160 p.

Instead of sunbathing on the beach, 13-year-old Vanya is going to spend his summer holidays with his father in a small northern village on the shore of the Barents Sea, with a population of 30-40 inhabitants. There, there is nothing but a weather station, a military base and an old lighthouse. Vanya will remain without the Internet, shopping malls or even a patch of asphalt for skateboarding. The boy expects three months of boredom but soon starts to realise that this place has its special charm.

In one of the book's climatic scenes a radio operator tells Vanya: "If you have the drive to discover, to move on and to explore the unknown — the god of boyhood is with you". Vanya contemplates this notion wandering along the rocky shore, climbing up the lighthouse, watching fishermen in the sea. One day, he meets Misha, his only peer in the village. Together the boys embark on a dangerous and exciting journey to an abandoned military bunker.

Searching for the God of Boyhood enthralls with its cinematic beauty: be it for his journalism experience or love for movies, but the author enriches the novel with vivid details avoiding excessive phrases and lengthy descriptions. With swift strokes Ishchenko depicts breathtaking arctic landscapes. They serve as the background for personal growth of the teenage protagonist who finds himself on the threshold between childhood and manhood.

TAGS:

boyhood, growing up, maturing, parent-child relationship, summer holidays, freedom, nature, North, Arctic



Krapivin
International Prize (2019)



Russian Arctic Prize
shortlist (2021)



22 000
copies sold



Seraphima Orlova: young voice of Russian literature

Seraphima Orlova (born 1989) is well-known in her hometown Omsk as a dramatist: her plays were staged when she was only 25. A fan of John Green with vast knowledge in Russian and foreign literature, she skillfully evades all pitfalls of writing a debut novel: her sources of inspiration are evident, but her prose is inimitably unique and its language is relatable.



14+



Tinhead

KompasGuide, 280 p.

It all starts with a metal roach running along the megamall. It leads Jane, a bored teenage girl, to the robotic club hidden among boutiques and stores. The club turns out to be more than just an interesting spot. It influences Jane, who feels devastated after a long-term sickness — she got a serious injury when exploring an abandoned building in the city outskirts.

Her problems must seem familiar and substantial to every teenager: unsuccessful first love, parents' misunderstanding, conflicts with brother and mocking classmates — and now it is all aggravated by the injury. In the robotic club Jane begins to pull herself together and slowly reassemble her life back. And eventually becomes a new person. Seraphima Orlova's novel is overwhelmingly sincere; as the story unfolds, its edgy protagonist gradually reveals her true personality to the readers, earning their sympathy and attention. Orlova's characters live not in a made-up fictional world but in the present-day reality: scenes in the megamall, school and apartments are written with utmost precision.

As the writer notes, in regions, especially the cold ones like Omsk, shopping malls become the cultural hub and the main place for meetings and first dates. This is why the scenes in the mall are probably the most charming in the novel. The author poeticizes everyday life of teenagers, and it resonates with her readers: the book was shortlisted by the Kniguru Award teenage jury, received a Lyceum Award nomination and was awarded the Krapivin International Prize.

TAGS:

maturing, searching for yourself, overcoming difficulties, friendship, robotics, sick-lit



Film rights:

movie in production



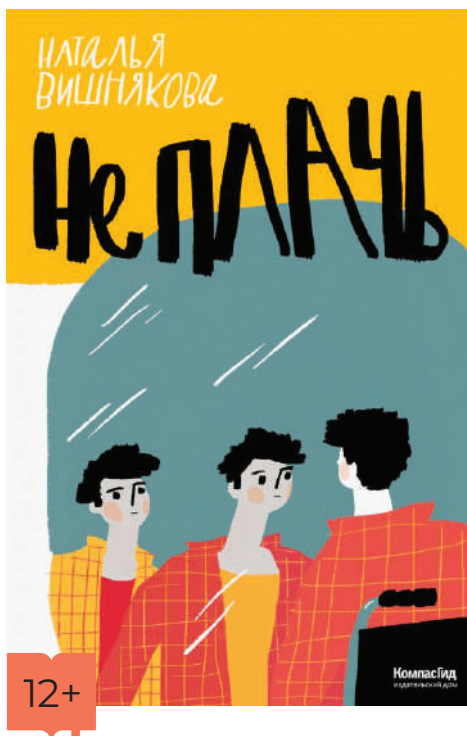
Krapivin International Prize (2018)



Rights sold to Georgia

Natalya Vishnyakova: being different

Natalya Vishnyakova (born 1973) is a talented journalist and teacher, the author of several books, film scripts and puppet theatre plays. She is not afraid of sensitive topics or heated debates, and her characters are vivid and immediately likeable.



Don't Cry

KompasGuide, 240 p.

The book contains parallel storylines of four teenagers united by the common themes of acceptance and personal choice.

Twin brothers Kostya and Vlad had been separated in childhood. Kostya, who had a handicap, was abandoned by their parents and has since been living with their grandmother. Now, when they are 13 years old, Kostya finds his brother on social media and they start to communicate.

When he hasn't yet met his brother, Vlad makes acquaintance with his new neighbour Peter, who has a handicap as well. At first, he rages because Peter does everything very slowly. But progressively Vlad starts to empathise with his new friend and realises that, despite his handicap, he is absolutely like other teens. One day, Vlad is asked by his classmates to help them film something as he is good at it. But when he arrives, he discovers that they are beating someone and that it was what they wanted him to film. The teenagers affirm that their victim had badly treated someone else in the past and they are just punishing him, but Vlad refuses to film this. The same group of teenagers offers Vlad to free him from Peter. But he stands up for his new friend.

Julia believes she corresponds with her beloved. They invent impossible tasks for each other to prove their feelings. One day, she learns that she was corresponding with another girl, her rival, who was actually dating the boy she liked. To get over despair, Julia will need wise advice from a more experienced person and new friends, and one of them will be Kostya.

All the characters openly speak about the subjects that worry them. They progressively realise that the world is more complicated than it seemed when they were kids. But this complexity opens new possibilities.

In the end, the main protagonists will be united by a cheerful event.

TAGS:

handicap, inclusion, maturing, sibling relations, first love, friendship, choice

Gala Uzryutova: contemporary Russia through the eyes of a teenager

Gala Uzryutova (born 1983) is a writer, poet and dramatist with a distinctive style. In 2018 she won the Booksdescriptor award in the New Reality category. Her prose, poems and plays have been published in various literary magazines and translated into several languages.



14+



Film rights:
movie released (2022)



The Country Named Sasha

KompasGuide, 152 p.

"I'm a strange guy. A little country with my own customs and traditions. The country named Sasha." You're already 16, Sasha — how come you haven't realised that this is how everyone feels? Everyone else is like a country too, a country with its own traditions and customs that may look surprising or outright weird. Jane certainly does, the one you're going to fall in love with.

For Sasha, it only takes one summer, as brief and unforgettable as a catchy pop song, to grow from a boy to a young man. At first, things that seemed to last forever disappear: mum doesn't cook meatballs on Sunday because you became a vegetarian; you're not afraid anymore of ghosts under your bed and of butcher shops; even Michael Jackson suddenly dies. And then you get to know someone who sparks a real revolution in your personal country.

Gala Uzryutova's book is an honest and rich in psychological details story about the unique moment when you realise childhood is over but don't have a clue what lies ahead. The novel's main character is both relatable and ambiguous: on one page he seems a total wuss to himself and the reader, but on another he does something that few would dare to attempt.

A movie based on the book was released at the beginning of 2022 and has been included in the program of the 72th Berlin International Film Festival.

TAGS:

coming of age, first love, relationship with parents, friendship, searching for yourself, personality



Eugenia Ovchinnikova: thrillingly realistic

Grown up in the Russian Far East, Eugenia Ovchinnikova (born 1983) currently lives in Saint Petersburg and travels a lot in Russia and abroad. Her writings are inspired by people, characters, places, lives and cultures she observes. Having a preference for detective thrillers mixing realism and mysticism, the writer claims that, no matter the genre, her stories are primarily about people. Good and bad, strange and ordinary, who fall in love, make difficult choices, have troubles, look at the world, breath and feel. Eugenia Ovchinnikova's books have been three times shortlisted for the Kniguru prize for the best literary work for children and youth.



Leave and Return

Trilogy: *Leave and Return* / *The Magic of Zero* / *Ordinary People*

KompasGuide, 256 p., 264 p., 376 p.

Nina's mother went missing five years ago when the girl was only nine. Her father, her friends and the police couldn't find any clue. 14-year-old Nina receives a mysterious message that instigates her to start her own investigation. Everyone is holding something back: her father with his never-ending "you're just a kid", the detective overburdened with other cases, mother's colleagues from the science lab — for no apparent reason... *Leave and Return* starts off the trilogy as a detective page-turner.

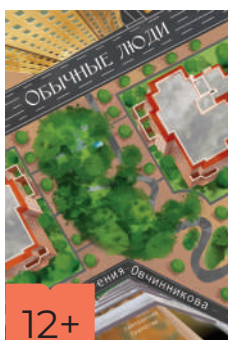
The story continues in the second book, *The Magic of Zero*. Zero the magician is sweeping all over Italy and everyone is talking about the talented performer. It was a show of "enigmatic, mysterious, and unique" magic that made the holiday of 15-year-old Nina, Vanya and Nastya unforgettable. In a most terrifying way.

In the last volume of the trilogy entitled *Ordinary People*, pursuits, trappings, challenges and even lack of self-confidence seem to have been left behind. Nina lives in Chicago and is a successful painter. Her personal exhibition entitled "Evolution" is about to open. But two strangers from different parts of the world, from the US and from Russia, consider the story isn't finished yet. Those who share Nina's secret start to disappear one by one, and the heroine will have to face her monsters once again.

Action-packed plot, precise psychological portraits of characters, exquisite game with readers' expectations — that's what made the audience love Nina's story. All the books of the trilogy are based on actual scientific discoveries and those that will probably be made in the nearest future.



The Magic of Zero



Ordinary People

TAGS:

detective story, family, science, gender experiments, missing person, mystery, survival novel, art, USA, coming of age

Maria Martirosova: the voice of a traumatised child

Russian-Armenian author Maria Martirosova captures the spirit and atmosphere of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict of the 1980s. Her novel *The Pictures to Remember* was included in the White Ravens list by the International Youth Library in Munich, awarded A. Gaidar Prize and shortlisted for the National children's literature prize in Russia, translated into French and recommended as a study material in Russian schools.




The Pictures to Remember

KompasGuide, 160 p.

First story, “The Pictures to Remember”, giving its title to the book, was included in the White Ravens list in 2013. It follows the childhood, adolescence and twenties of Margaret Manukian. At the end of the 1980s, Margo lives with her parents — adoptive as it turns out later — as part of the Armenian minority in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. When the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict breaks out, the family faces hostility and ostracisation. The girl's father is murdered, and Margaret and her mother have to escape from the country. They come to Murmansk in the north of Russia, but Margaret continues the journey. Years later, living in New-York and working as a photographer in a prestigious magazine, she finds by chance a box with old photographs. She traces her biography back to Baku and realises that no distances, nationalities or borders can change her feelings towards those who she loves.

The second story, “The Reds, the Yellows and the Blues”, begins in the late 1980s. A class that used to be calm and friendly suddenly splits into groups. The first one is for “Azerbaijanis” only, the second is for “Armenians” and the third group is made of all the others: Russians, Tatars, Jews and Georgians. One student refuses to join any group: with her Russian first name, mother's Armenian last name and an Azerbaijani father, Sveta Avanesova is a stranger in any company. She fails to understand why ethnicity has become of such importance to both grown-ups and children. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan forces Sveta and her mother to move from Baku to Yerevan — only to become “aliens” again. After having failed to obtain the permission to move to the US, they settle in Moscow where they endeavour to keep to their cultural traditions.

The author focuses on people and the irreversibility of things they say or do. Both stories raise questions relatable for today's adolescents. How can a friendly world turn into hostile and unpredictable? What could prevent intolerance, conflicts and wars?

 **White Ravens 2013**



Tolstoy Prize
“Yasnaya Polyana”
shortlist (2013)
 (“The Pictures
to Remember”)

TAGS:

ethnic conflict, tolerance, school life, cosmopolite, emigration, coming of age, Armenia, Azerbaijan



Maria Boteva: inimitable style and subtle psychology

Writer, playwright and stage director Maria Boteva (born 1980) is well-known among devotees of modern children's literature in Russia and abroad. Her books have been twice included in the White Ravens list of distinguished and original children's books of the International Youth Library in Munich. Boteva excels in the genre of short story. Her writings, recommended for school reading, stand out for unusual plotlines and diverse but always self-sufficient characters.



Ice Cream in Wafer Cups

KompasGuide, 160 p.

Ice Cream in Wafer Cups by Maria Boteva is a collection consisting of three poignant and unusually honest stories about teenagers' lives. The characters of the first story, "Ice Cream in Wafer Cups", form an unusual family, whose house is open for anyone who finds it difficult to live in the big world. Children and adults can leave at any time — go to the sea, the world's end or an unknown place... They will certainly come back to the place where they are loved and welcomed.

Schoolmates from the second story, "School at the Match", make an important discovery: one can rescue others only after having learned to understand one's self. The ridiculous and touching girl, the narrator of "Here's for the Holiday!", knows how fragile the human soul can be — and she loudly says: «Long live the heart!»

TAGS:

adopted children, family, friendship, gifted children, lifeguard school, love

★ White Ravens 2014



Rights sold to
China

Tatyana Sergeeva: insights in the sports world

Graduated doctor, Tatyana Sergeeva (born 1943) had been the official physician of the USSR artistic gymnastics' national team. Lately, she graduated as a scriptwriter, worked on television and became a member of the Journalists' Union of Russia. Tatyana Sergeeva has been writing for children and young adults for over fifteen years.



Free Exercises

KompasGuide, 112 p.

No sound. No breath. Only the distant hum of the tribunes. Anyuta has been waiting ten years for this day: she has a chance to become a European champion! Trainings, sport camps, competitions took two thirds of her life. And now her only dream is only a stone's throw away. Not to make mistakes, not to stumble. The coach Irina also keeps her breath. She had other pupils, even coached an Olympic champion, but Anyuta is special. Obstinate as she is, she has a gift. Even hardships both the coach and the gymnast experience in their life don't have to prevent her from winning.

Free Exercises is structured as two monologues, of an adult who has devoted her entire life to sport and of a teenager questioning herself about the worth of the high price to pay for a successful sports career. The reader sees the world of artistic gymnastics alternatively through their eyes. But the characters do not live exclusively in the gym. They are also involved in the complex and contradictory outside world. The choice between lifework and family runs like a red thread through the text.

The novel has been awarded the Cherished Dream Prize as "the best literary work about life of modern children and teenagers".

TAGS:

sport, artistic gymnastics, growing-up, parent-child relationship, wins and losses



Nina Dashevskaya: musical prose with multiple layers

Writer and musician Nina Dashevskaya (born 1979) has won all Russian literary contests worth mentioning, has been included in White Ravens (2017) and IBBY (2020) lists and is a regular nominee for Astrid Lindgren Prize. Her books are translated into foreign languages. Nina Dashevskaya is also one of the most adapted for stage children's writers in Russia. Her prose is acclaimed for its musical sense and psychological accuracy — the way she gives voice to her characters' thoughts is literally flawless.

About Music and Other Stories

KompasGuide, 432 p.

In its new collection "Selected Stories" KompasGuide includes its most noteworthy texts issued since the foundation of the publishing house. The book by Nina Dashevskaya opens this series. It contains the best and several new short stories by the award-winning writer. They have in common a particular atmosphere of kindness and warmth and a power to reveal how amazing people around us are and how miracles can fill everyday life of children but also adults.

The book contains three sections about different teenagers. One shows teenagers related to music. Another reminds of the importance of knowing how to be the second and do not strive to be the first everywhere. The last section is about the ability to correctly understand what is happening and find a key to each person.

The plot of each story is unique and leaves a mark on the reader. The characters feel like our neighbours, friends or ourselves. Their thoughts are as scattered and feelings as controversial as ours, and making decisions is just as troublesome to them as it is to us. The questions children and teenagers worry about are always in the centre of the stories: lack of self-confidence, difficult relationships with other children and with adults, looking for friends. The stories highlight the value of every person and the importance of diversity, open-mindedness, friendship and love.

TAGS:

teenagers, growing up, music, art, school life, psychological prose



Rights sold to

Lithuania (first eponyme section "About Music")



Kniguru Prize

(first eponyme section "About Music", 2014)



11+

MIDD



КомпасГид
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MIDDLE-GRADERS

DEERS



Victoria Lederman: alternative probability of your future

Victoria Lederman (born 1970) can be called a modern classic of children's literature. Her novels are loved by readers and awarded by professional juries. Light style and action-packed plot are the distinctive features of her prose. A mixture of realism and sci-fi elements enables the writer to bring to light the issues modern teenagers are dealing with as well as the importance of human relations in today's world. Her stories are witty and optimistic. They show that no matter how difficult the problem is, there is always a solution.

Improbabilities Theory

KompasGuide, 2 volumes, 172 p. and 192 p.

Matthew is 14 years old. He is edgy and arrogant like many teens of his age. He cares only about computer games and goes to school only because "they make him do it". The world pays him back: his friends eventually disappear and his mother is always arguing with him. After a horrible morning the Internet went off, Matthew meets street bullies and has to flee. This escape suddenly ends up in a parallel universe: Matthew hides in a concrete pipe somewhere at the end of the city and dives out into a world where he never existed. In this parallel probability of the events, Matthew's mum gave birth to a girl! And he starts moving from one probability to another.

Only Benjamin, a boy from his school, an outcast who keeps getting himself in trouble, believes in Matthew's fantastic story. Making friends with Ben once seemed to Matthew the most impossible thing ever, but only this friendship can save him. To get back to his reality, he will have to change his life and attitude to it as well.

Though action-packed, the novel touches upon several moral issues: how not to hurt those whom you love, what the friends are for and how to reconcile when the conflict seems insurmountable.

TAGS: *school novel, parallel universe, parent-child relationship, friendship, empathy, urban fantasy*



Krapivin International Prize (2018)



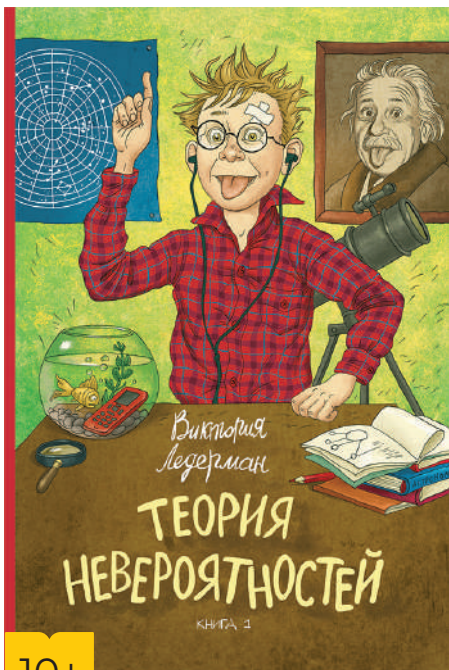
Kniguru Prize (2018)



49 000
copies sold



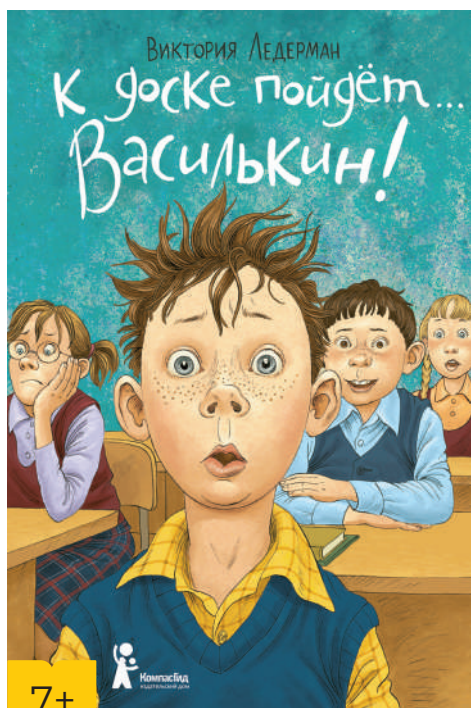
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10+



10+



Vasilkin... To the Blackboard!

KompasGuide, 112 p.

9-year-old Dima has his fair share of adventures at and out of school. He and his friend think up the funniest April Fool's prank, he decides to learn to play the guitar before the New Year, or personally experiences what the expression "a weight off one's shoulders" means. The character writes everything down in a notebook and progressively reveals himself to the reader. The short episodes build into a novel presenting light, entertaining but also instructive reading with likeable and relatable protagonists from school life resembling so much the readers themselves. That's what explains the phenomenon of popularity of this book.

TAGS:

school life, pupil-teacher relationship, funny stories, child psychology



Rights sold to
China, Romania, Ukraine



130 000
copies sold



Eleven-Year-Old Only, or a School Love Story

KompasGuide, 128 p.

Classmates and best friends George and Nikita fall in love with Angelina, a new girl in their class. They are ready for everything for their first love. The latter happens to have a difficult character. She demands attention, intrigues, manipulates both friends and even puts at risk their life. Typical in fiction for adults but unusual in children's literature, the situation of a love triangle is lived through by the 11-year-old protagonists as acutely as it would be at a more mature age. Will friendship stand to love and who will conquer Angelina's heart?

The book is written in a form of alternating monologues of the main protagonists. It enables the reader to understand each character from inside and follow the evolution of their thoughts and feelings. Rooted in today's realities like supermarkets, social networks and computer games, the novel raises timeless themes: boyish heroism, faithfulness, friendship and maturing. It has something cinematic. Like a movie, it is eventful, non-moralising and calling for discussion.

TAGS:

school life, love triangle, first love, friendship, empathy, family problems



Krapivin International
Prize shortlist (2016)



Rights sold to
Lithuania



105 000
copies sold

Stanislav Olefir: with care for nature

Since childhood, Stanislav Olefir (1938–2015) had been a fan of adventure and travel stories. In his youth, he travelled all over the USSR, from Ukraine to the Far East. Throughout his career he worked as an agronomist, hunter and school teacher and wrote over twenty fiction and popular science books for children and grown-ups which immediately became popular for their simple style, attention to details and surprisingly optimistic approach.



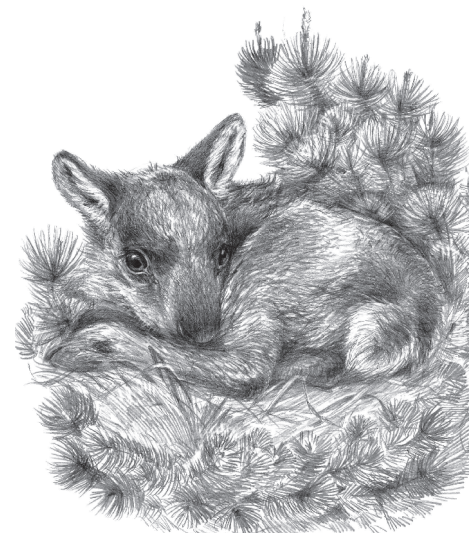
Walking in the Taiga

Illustrated by Natalya Gabeyeva
KompasGuide, 368 p.

The narrator walks through the taiga and reveals to the reader all that he knows about this place, its nature and inhabitants. This collection of short stories is filled with useful tips, sharp observations and witty jokes — but primarily, it is a profession of love to every living creature, nature and people who admire its beauty. The readers will find out how the taiga changes its appearance every season, learn how to trace steps in the snow, listen to birds chirping in the woods and get to know “thousands of friends”: birds, animals and fishes. They all come to life on the wonderful illustrations by Natalya Gabeyeva made specially for the new edition.

The world of wolverines, owls and waders seems as fantastic as any fictional universe. Few grown-ups have ever seen a chipmunk in the woods, heard grey-headed woodpeckers drumming or enjoyed the smell of juniper while walking along an uneven path. And for kids the strange, otherworldly taiga is just like Narnia!

TAGS: *taiga, nature, environment, animals*



EARLY



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EARLY READERS

READERS



Maria Boteva: a tale about overcoming loneliness

Writer, playwright and stage director Maria Boteva (born 1980) is well-known among devotees of modern children's literature in Russia and abroad. Her books have been twice included in the White Ravens list of distinguished and original children's books of the International Youth Library in Munich. Boteva excels in the genre of short story. Her writings, recommended for school reading, stand out for unusual plotlines and diverse but always self-sufficient characters.



Lighthouse — Look!

Illustrated by Sergey Gavrilov
KompasGuide, 96 p.

Everything about this book is unique: its characters, style and the chain of plot-twisting events. The readers will find themselves on a captivating journey through mists and storms in the open sea. Amidst the darkness and splashing water there's a feeble, flickering light — a lighthouse. But it needs to be repaired. Otherwise all the characters will be lost in the tempest. There are a great many of them: ginger Edwin, little Elsa, wolf Jackdaw Wader, father and son Kaporyaks, the ship Antonius and Sweet N, as well as pirates, prisoners and strangers. And the fate of all these creatures is strangely entwined with the lighthouse, symbol of a common aim people try to reach by taking various and sometimes uncanny paths.

The text is divided into small chapters, each taking us to a new place. Such “mounting” keeps the readers intrigued. Why did Edwin start his sail? Can Elsa repair the damaged lighthouse on her own? How to stop being allergic to pirates? Questions keep following one another, and the ending gives almost all the answers. This “almost” is the most charming element of the book: thanks to such evasiveness, the readers will think about the characters again and again and imagine follow-ups to their stories.

Maria Boteva's prose stands out for unpredictability of the plotline and subtle emotional undertones. Her style is truly inimitable: this is a unique language every reader falls in love with at first encounter.

TAGS: *fairy tale, funny story, lighthouse, sea, animals*



White Ravens 2018



Rights sold to
India (Malayalam), UAE (Arabic worldwide)

Anastasia Strokina:

Nordic charm

Anastasia Strokina (born 1984) not only writes books for children, she is also engaged in literary research and translates from English, French, Dutch and Italian. Born beyond the North Pole, Strokina sets her stories in Northern Russia and Scandinavia, following Selma Lagerlöf and Hans Christian Andersen. Her philosophical fairy tales, both modern and timeless, have been awarded numerous prizes. Anastasia Strokina is the Russian nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2022.



The Whale Swims North

Illustrated by Irina Petelina
KompasGuide, 96 p.

Mamoru is a small fantastic creature with a very long tale. He has just finished his studies in a school of islands' keepers, and now he has to find his island to take care of it. He wasn't the best student, that's why a difficult condition was imposed on him: to recognise his island among hundreds of others, he has to first see it in dreams while sleeping. If he fails, he will turn into a stone.

Mamoru makes his journey through the oceans on the back of a whale. They go north, because in his first dream Mamoru saw that his island would be very far from all others, situated in hot climates, already occupied by other mamorus, who were better students. During their journey to the Bering sea, Mamoru and the whale will, partly in reality and partly in dreams, discover customs and legends of northern peoples, meet fantastic creatures and animals and help them to solve their problems. Each encounter and dream deals, through parables, with an aspect of human life: friendship, family, hope, belief in one's self, kindness towards other beings, dreams and imagination. Friendship between Mamoru and the whale will be tested several times, and all their journey teaches the reader that no one can find his island on his own but only being open to the world and other beings.

Written for the youngest readers, this philosophical tale gained many fans among older readers and has been published 4 times and adapted for stage. It stands out among other texts for children because of the magical and unique atmosphere of the North it creates and the universal values it conveys.

TAGS:

philosophical tale, journey, North, indigenous peoples, fantastic animals



Rights sold to
China, Croatia



Krapivin International
Prize (2014)



65 000
copies sold



English
translation
available

Maria Fedotova:

childhood in the bosom of nature

Literature teacher and children's writer Maria Fedotova (born 1946) is the author of more than 20 books and member of the Union of Writers of Russia. Most of her novels, short stories and fairy tales are dedicated to the life and customs in her native Yakutia, one of the coldest regions of Russia, where local traditions are still preserved in many places. They reveal a deep understanding of the way children see the world and themselves in it. In 2015, Maria Fedotova was awarded the Krapivin International Prize.



5+

Playing with Stones

Illustrated by Irina Galkina
KompasGuide, 96 p.

Once little Nulginet saw a tiny man and wondered why he was so small. "He's only a kid, just like you", her mother laughed. And how was the girl supposed to know there were other children in the world? She is the only child for miles around.

Nulginet's name means "born during migration", and she lives in a family of reindeer herders who never stay in one place for long. The girl enjoys playing with stones: you can ride big ones like a reindeer, and instead of big brown boulders you can imagine wolves and bears. They're not real, but still scary. "Real" toys are different: they smell badly and make unpleasant noises when you press them. But the girl loves the ball most: it bounces happily, unlike any stones. This ball is her first contact with "the big world".

Her life and herself seem so unreal and magical. However, the stories collected in this book are not fairy tales but real memories of the grown-up Nulginet. Today, her name is Maria Fedotova, she is an experienced teacher and a popular Far East writer. She writes in Russian, Yakut and Evenki languages. *Playing with Stones* was originally published in Evenki, and was translated into Russian by Ariadna Borisova. For this novel Maria Fedotova-Nulginet was awarded the Krapivin International Prize in the "Small Motherland - Big Russia" nomination. Illustrations by Irina Galkina perfectly capture the spirit of the book and enrich its content. For elementary school readers, *Playing with Stones* will certainly become a discovery: they will find out that our world can be so diverse!

TAGS:

early childhood, family, nature, animals, North, ethnic groups, tribe culture



Krapivin International
Prize (2015)



Victoria Lederman: school novels you can't put down

Victoria Lederman (born 1970) can be called a modern classic of children's literature. Her novels are loved by readers and awarded by professional juries. Light style and action-packed plot are the distinctive features of her prose. A mixture of realism and sci-fi elements enables the writer to bring to light the issues modern teenagers are dealing with as well as the importance of human relations in today's world. Her stories are witty and optimistic. They show that no matter how difficult the problem is, there is always a solution.



6+

Svetlik Tuchkin and the Wish-Granting Bubble

KompasGuide, 264 p.

Svetlik Tuchkin's school routine turns into a fantastic adventure. He discovers that he can travel between the future and the past without any time machine. How is that possible? He doesn't know himself. There's a fairy and a huge soap bubble and when Svetlik is inside the bubble, his dreams come true — but not the way he expected. Svetlik's amazing story begins when he is 7 years old. He is bored with handwriting, maths worksheets and home reading. The kindergarten was way better — all you had to do was playing and goofing around! "I wish I could get back in time", thinks Svetlik and teams up with his cousin Rodya. Together, they come up with a seemingly perfect plan. The question is how to formulate your wishes correctly. Otherwise, you risk turning out in the kindergarten with a mind of a 7-year-old or in a class with 10-year-olds without necessary knowledge.

TAGS:

*time travel, school, friendship,
sibling relationship*



12 000
copies sold



6+

Svetlik Tuchkin and the Stolen Holidays

KompasGuide, 280 p.

Imagine: there will be no winter holidays! There are going to be endless lessons — no walks, no games, no trips. This nightmare before New Year's Eve happened because a magic dwarf had been stolen and carried away from his Christmas tree. All the hopes lie on Svetlik Tuchkin.

In the book by Victoria Lederman even a 7-year-old can become a hero. All you need is to get over your fears and have a sincere desire to help. That is a superpower able to save all the schoolchildren of the Earth. To add a pinch of magic in the course of school life is a recipe for success of both books of the series.

TAGS:

*school, holidays, vacations,
magic, friendship, winter*



10 000
copies sold

Julia Kuznetsova: colours of happy childhood

Julia Kuznetsova (born 1981) is an exceptionally prolific author, winner of many literary awards including the Krapivin International Prize and Kniguru Prize. In almost fifteen years of her career, she has written more than twenty significant works of different genres for young readers. Her books prove that any topic can be treated in children's and teenage fiction: all depends on how to present it. Mother of three, Julia Kuznetsova also writes books and articles on education and family reading



Irochka

Illustrated by Irina Gavrilova
KompasGuide, 224 p.

Irochka is a witty and curious 5-year-old girl. Everything interests her, and she is willing to help all living creatures around: to reconcile her mum and grandma, to punish a wasp that bit her younger brother Maxim, to build a house for birds so that they don't freeze. She loves to have fun and finds everywhere an opportunity to invent a game. She is also eager to learn the reason for everything happening around her. And for that, she has her mum, loving and inventive, who always comes up with unusual and clever explanations and solutions.

The book is divided into three parts — “In the countryside”, “On the seashore” and “In the city” — representing different backgrounds. Both simple and unique, the funny stories from everyday life of Irochka and her family show the importance of being curious, of empathising with others, of love and forgiveness.

Inspired by her own experience of motherhood, Julia Kuznetsova wrote a heartwarming book that arouses the attention of little readers to the world around them and gives their parents some unusual ideas of how to occupy their children. Lovely and vivid illustrations by Irina Gavrilova marvellously convey the atmosphere of joy inherent to a happy childhood. They call the reader to accompany Irochka and her brother in their plays and discoveries.

TAGS:

family, childhood, parent-child relationship, motherhood, grandparents, nature, funny stories, empathy



FANTASY



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FANTASY

TASY

Tatiana Lakiziuk: fairy tales enchanting children and adults

After having worked in education for many years, Tatiana Lakiziuk (born 1982) sent her first fantasy novel to KompasGuide. She chose this genre because it offers the reader a possibility to immerse in a magical universe where things impossible in real life become possible. Settled in a unique magical world, her stories contain one or several detective intrigues and the main characters are remarkable for their courage.



The Chronicles of Dragomir, tetralogy Volume 1: Beyond Radiance

KompasGuide, 416 p.

Dragomir is a world built from minerals and gemstones. Its inhabitants — good wizards and witches — lived in harmony until the arrival of the cunning witch Jadeida. With the help of the books of black magic and of their old keeper, she learnt to master all the elements. She put a dreadful spell on Dragomir and started the war that has been lasting for 13 years. The evil witch can be stopped only by Luna, a girl born the night of the spell. But where to find her?

Luna ignores being the princess of Dragomir kept hidden from Jadeida for many years. She lives like an orphan in a world without magic, looked after by a cruel foster family. Once, the day of her birthday, she becomes aware of her magical powers and learns about her true origins. She is going to make a long way home, full of dangerous adventures. She will meet her real parents and will have to confront Jadeida in the battle that will settle the destiny of Dragomir.

Beyond Radiance is the first volume of the enthralling tetralogy *The Chronicles of Dragomir*. Tatiana Lakiziuk created a world striking the imagination. Each person there has a gift of mastering one of the four elements and the luckiest ones possess the gift of healing. With Luna and her friends, the readers will make an exciting trip, see the gemstones of unearthly beauty, magical animals and plants and will learn why Jadeida cursed this marvellous world and why she was so desirous for power.

TAGS:

magic, magical universe, magical powers, wizard, gems, minerals, elements, orphanhood



The Chronicles of Dragomir, tetralogy Volume 2: In the Shadow of the Obsidian

KompasGuide, 472 p.

The adventures of Luna, princess of Dragomir and wonderful wizard, continue! After the perilous battle with Jadeida, who had kept all Dragomir in fear for 13 years, Luna transformed the witch into a stone statue for ever. The Dragomirians took off their shoulders the burden of war, but the old books of black magic used by Jadeida haven't been found. They and their keeper, a big spider called the Black Obsidian, threaten the well-being of Dragomir.

Luna and her brave friend Fitchik will start learning magical powers of the elements and face new dangers and trials. With her new friends Ametrin and Sentaria Luna will try to save Dragomir again. This time, it will be much more difficult. The followers of Jadeida came very close to Luna, hidden behind familiar faces.

TAGS:

magic, magical universe, magical powers, wizard, gems, minerals, elements, friendship

In the Shadow of the Obsidian is the second book of the tetralogy *The Chronicles of Dragomir* by Tatiana Lakiziuk. The readers will immerse again in the astonishing, colourful world of gems and magical creatures. With Luna, they will learn not only mastering of Earth and Fire but also how to choose friends and allies and to make the difference between true enemies and those who were forced to make a wrong choice.

Snezhana Karimova: History through the magic

The life of Snezhana Karimova (born 1989) has always been divided between words and creative manual work. She worked as a copywriter, content manager, beta reader and proofreader but also as a florist-designer, candles' and dreamcatchers' maker. Today, Snezhana Karimova carries on with creating magical universes, written and hand-made. Her first fantasy book was published in 2018, and she continues to bring new ideas from her journeys around the world.



The Floating House

KompasGuide, 240 p.

17-year-old Dara and her younger sister Maya come to spend summer vacation at their great-aunt's house, where she also lives their cousin Elisha. One night, to scare the girls, Elisha tells them a legend of Mologa, the Russian Atlantis. When the town was going to be flooded in order to make a reservoir, three hundred residents chained themselves to their houses, drowned with their town and are now luring fishermen to the bottom.

Dara, who is going to study History at the university, learns that their cousin hasn't completely invented his story. Mologa really existed and some of its houses were transferred by river to the neighbouring city. The three teenagers go visit it. They find the house which had belonged to their family. Dara meets Ivy who used to live in Mologa when she was a child. By some magic she goes back in time and turns out in Ivy's memories where sees what really happened to Mologa and its inhabitants. Ivy's family had had a magical cafe, which had been left in the past because of an unfulfilled promise. Dara witnesses little Ivy being condemned to serve the kikimore, the evil female spirit of their house. She decides to save Ivy but almost perishes herself. Realising she won't be able to keep Ivy any longer, the kikimore tries to drown and enslave Dara. An unexpected saviour intervenes just in time. The stories of Dara and Ivy turn out to be surprisingly entwined.

Being a work of fiction, the novel is based on confirmed historical facts and popular legends linked to the fate of the real town of Mologa flooded in the first half of the XXth century.

TAGS:

summer holidays, legends, flooded city, lost city, History, adventures, friendship, sorcery



Film rights:
sold

Mira Arim: timeless issues in a magical universe

The youngest author of KompasGuide, Mira Arim (born 1999) studied law and psychology and confesses that both specialisations serve her in her writing practice. Creating fairy worlds and inventing action-packed plots, she raises eternal themes like family relations, friendship, love and duty.



The Night Bazaar

dilogy, volume 1

KompasGuide, 464 p.

The Night Bazaar is a magical world floating in space, where an enormous Moon shines instead of the Sun. It resembles an infinite maze, with its streets overflowed with tents, stalls and shops selling potions, amulets and magical artefacts. The Bazaar is inhabited by demons, wizards, werewolves and other fairy creatures. They tell only the truth because the spirit of their world prevents them from lying.

Kaz is the only human in the Night Bazaar. Sixteen years ago, he was saved by the mighty demon Holde, when his mother left him in a forest at the border between the real world and the Bazaar. Holde, who saw all the scene, pitied the helpless creature. As no one could cross the border of the magical world, Holde concluded a deal with the Bazaar. He gave out the locket where his power was enclosed and thus got the right to take the baby with him.

Kaz feels at ease on the streets of the Night Bazaar. He makes his living by thievery and has no problem with lying. Both these talents rescued him more than once. But one day another human turns out. A young girl named Aly is looking for her family. At the same time, Holde's power is running out and Kaz wants to get back his locket that turns out to be kept by a human. It becomes clear that Kaz and Aly have to get to the real world to settle their problems. There they will face intrigues, take part in battles and achieve some of their goals. But between two worlds the breaches appear. Can the collapsing of the Night Bazaar be stopped? Will Aly find her family and Kaz the place where he belongs? What do they feel for each other? The readers will find the answers in the second volume of the dilogy to be published soon.

TAGS:

magical world, family mysteries, love, friendship, palace intrigue, business, fair

Eugenia Kretova: Russian ethnic fantasy

Eugenia Kretova (born 1979) is the author of 17 books in action thriller fiction, sci-fi and fantasy genres. Having first self-published her texts on an online platform, she is currently published by famous publishing houses and is the laureate of many literary prizes. In 2020, *Esquire* listed Eugenia Kretova among ten most popular young adult writers in Russia and five most popular Russian speaking authors writing for the same audience.



12+

The Rulers of Destiny, tetralogy

Volume 1: Veles's Cane

KompasGuide, 392 p.

15-year-old Katia had been living an ordinary life till the day when her mum disappeared and bandits broke into their house looking for some Cane. Katia managed to escape thanks to a family relic, her mum's magical jewellery box. But the enemies are hot at her heels. Irmina, a wicked witch who sent the bandits, knows for certain that it is Katia who has the Cane, and she won't stop at nothing to get hold of it, even if she has to kill the girl.

With help of the jewellery box, Katia goes back to the XVI century Russia. Only there she can learn about the mysterious Cane, the magical powers of the jewellery box and ancient sorcery and about Irmina. To find her mum, Katia will have to go through many dangerous adventures: a journey to the ancient city of Arkaim, a battle with gryphons, learning of magical tricks and a fight with the mighty witch. Will she come out alive from the confrontation with Irmina, find her mum and go back home?

This book is about time-travelling, amazing adventures, long-distance wanderings and cultural artefacts. The reader will accompany the characters to the unique historical and natural sites and immerse in Slavic mythology with its gods and fantastic creatures.

TAGS:

Slavic mythology, time-travelling, gods and deities, adventures, family, friendship, artefacts



The Rulers of Destiny, tetralogy **Volume 2: Maara's Spear**

KompasGuide, 384 p.

After the long and life-threatening battle with Irmina in the caves of an ancient city, Katia has only to bid farewell to her friends and join her mum. Everything is ready: the Veles's Cane and the magical stone Alatyr should help her travelling in time and space. But the journey has to be postponed because of an extraordinary newcomer. In the infinite underground maze Katia comes across Ayakchaana, a girl from the Extreme North. To go back to her family, the granddaughter of a Siberian shaman has to find Maara's spear.

The strange girl also came from the XXI century. Katia engages herself to help her, hoping to find a way to use the magical artefacts she possesses and that will bring her to her mum. Together, the girls will go through numerous trials: travel in time and in space, save friends in captivity in a savage tribe, find the artefact of the goddess of Death, remove a lethal curse and face in a new battle the evil Irmina back from the dead. The witch desires to exterminate Katia and her family and thus lay hold of the Veles's Cane and the Maara's Spear that could offer her youth, might and rest.

Maara's Spear is the second book of the tetralogy *The Rulers of Destiny* by Eugenia Kretova. It carries the reader to new locations and in new time periods and presents new characters. Katia realises that the world is not divided between the black and the white but is more complex.

TAGS:

Slavic mythology, time-travelling, gods and deities, adventures, family, friendship, artefacts



Coming soon...

Volume 3.

The Shadow of Chernobog

Yana Tkacheva: epic fantasy rooted in the oldest mythologies

Yana Tkacheva (born 1986) moved from one end of Russia to another, from Tchukotka to Kaliningrad. Her life experience is enriched by three university diplomas, but she left all her professions to devote herself to writing. Active self-publishing author in her early years, she has already signed two books for KompasGuide.



16+

Gods Are Like People, dilogy

Volume 1: The Circles on the Water

KompasGuide, 448 p.

This story is about great battles, the war between gods, love, deceit and friendship. The god Veles had been betrayed by his own brother, Perun. He seized power by deceit and caught Veles in a trap where his beloved woman and their child died. Veles wants to take revenge on his brother and gathers the allies to overthrow the greedy Perun.

The battle ends with the Great Schism, but the war is not over. Veles wants to avoid total destruction of the universe at all costs. The witch Yagishna and her beloved called Vladan, the goddess of death Mara punished by Perun, and the immortal Kalen — they all believe in Veles and are ready to do a lot so that after the Great Schism the world returns to harmony. Will the characters succeed in taking Perun's power over the worlds and what goal Veles actually pursues?

The Circles on the Water is the first book of Yana Tkacheva's dilogy *Gods Are Like People* based on the most popular mythologies in the world: Egyptian, Roman, Scandinavian and Slavic. Men are only pawns in the hands of the gods ready to sacrifice human lives to achieve their goals. But the gods also have their earthly passions that turn a novel into a story about love, power and betrayal on an epic scale.

TAGS:

mythology, gods, love, hatred, death, epic battle

NON-FI



КомпасГид
издательский дом

NON-FICTION

CTION

Svetlana Frolova and Ekaterina Varzhuntovich: entertaining theory and practice of filmmaking

Svetlana Frolova (born 1988) has numerous skills. Graduated historian and teacher, she is currently working in publishing. In her writings for children and adolescents she happily combines knowledge and humour. Art teacher Ekaterina Varzhuntovich (born 1983) had worked in advertising and painted theatrical scenery till the day she realised that only depicting characters for children makes her really happy. From then on, she has illustrated over two dozen children's books.



10+

Cinematikitchen: History and Recipes of the Great Cinema

KompasGuide, 328 p.

Who and when invented the cinema? The obvious answer about the Lumière brothers and 1895 doesn't work. Svetlana Frolova leads the history of the cinema from the prehistoric ages. The readers are invited to follow 13-year-old Alex and his cat Bergamot on their way from rock paintings to modern blockbusters. They will learn about all the stages of filmmaking and the tasks of the film crew, not only of the director and the cameraman, but also of the costume designer, the gaffer, and even the special effects supervisor. The book also contains, among others, chapters about cinema in different countries from France to Japan, film genres, cartoons and TV series, modern filming technologies and the biggest world movie awards. But Alex is eager not only to learn the theory — he is dreaming of filming himself! For those who would also like to start practising, the book contains exercises, practical advice and professional secrets of the film industry masters.

Cinematikitchen is not an encyclopaedia of cinematography, nor a movie recipes collection. While containing exhaustive basic knowledge about the cinema of yesterday and today, the book is full of film tricks, curious facts, funny stories and offers a huge list of the best movies of all times at the end. The book will especially interest the teenagers, but some chapters suit the young readers and even adults can find something to nurture their curiosity. *Cinematikitchen* is highly recommended to movie-lovers of all ages.

This book is a result of deep studies, hours of movie watching and providential encounters with cinema people from different countries and of diverse professions.

TAGS:

cinema, film, movie, television, cartoon, art, profession, inspiration



Marina Babanskaya and Natalya Karpova:

informative storytelling

Writer Marina Babanskaya (born 1986) is in love with wildlife and every summer she travels along Siberia or the Russian Far East, collecting folklore and information about local cultures. These travels resulted in a big book illustrated by Natalya Karpova, who visualises all relevant details and makes the story even more entertaining.



From East to West: Journey of a Message in a Bottle

KompasGuide, 152 p.

Writer Marina Babanskaya and illustrator Natalya Karpova joined their efforts in an ambitious and unique project: a richly illustrated encyclopaedia of Russian peoples and regions, where the chapters are united by a common storyline. The plot device enabling the reader to visit many unusual places is... a bottle in the sea.

The message in the bottle was sent by Peter Kruglov, a lighthouse keeper. He asks everyone who finds his letter to add a small message telling about themselves, the place they live in, their traditions and the way they spend their time. On its journey, the bottle will travel all over Russia, from Vladivostok to Saint Petersburg, and appear in regions most readers have never been to.

Strange traditions of Kalmykia and Kabardino-Balkaria, rare skills essential for survival in Yakutia and Tuva, cultural habits in old cities like Kazan and Tutayev — all of this got the authors' attention. Every location and person is depicted with love and respect; the authors emphasise the value of ethnic and regional diversity, point out how indigenous peoples adapt their traditional lifestyle to the new age, bringing to light the details even few grown-ups have heard of.

Although this encyclopaedia is aimed at middle-graders readers, it will certainly entertain grown-ups and, due to the unique visual style of its illustrations, it will become a worthy item in every book collection. The subtle storytelling gives the book a special charm: epistolary narrative feels natural and helps to put together multiple elements.

TAGS:

non-fiction, geography, Russia, ethnicities, indigenous peoples, cultures, traditions



Eugene Rudashevsky:

best life hacks for young adventurers

Eugene Rudashevsky's biography (born 1987) is as exciting as his stories. He worked as a guide in the Siberian taiga, studied in the US, travelled through most amazing places. This writer loves experimenting and is not afraid to switch from one genre to another. He is the laureate of prestigious literary awards in Russia and was included in the White Ravens list (2017). Nature, ecology and preservation of cultures and languages of indigenous small-numbered peoples are among his main concerns.



The Extreme Picnic. For Those Who Set Off

Illustrated by Anna Kulikova
KompasGuide, 432 p.

What do you really need to put into your backpack? How to find your way and make yourself comfortable in the forest? How to survive when something goes wrong and there is not a soul around? This survival guide contains tips and life hacks for all young adventurers and travellers.

The book is divided into four parts: “Bonfire”, “Thirst”, “Hunger” and “Shelter”. Each of them has three levels of difficulty — green, yellow and red — according to the difficulties one is likely to face. In the green level the reader will learn the basic tips like how to prepare firewood, find water in a forest or set up a tent. The yellow level is about minor difficulties like the things to do if there is only wet firewood around, how to clean dirty water and open canned food with your bare hands. Red is the most difficult level, when the health of the hiker is threatened by cold, thirst or hunger and one may need to make fire with a flashlight, extract vapours from the groundwaters and hunt for dinner. In addition, the book contains golden rules and lists of advice of what is right and what is wrong to do in each particular situation.

An experienced hiker and traveller but also a skillful storyteller, Eugene Rudashevsky sprinkles his text with funny camping tales and stories from classic adventure literature. Colourful drawings by Anna Kulikova visualise the tips and illustrate the situations described by the author.

TAGS:

survival handbook, nature, forest, mountains, camping, life hacks, adventures



Alena Vodopyanova and Ekaterina Krivich:

from daily routine to knowledge through game

Alena Vodopyanova (born 1983) left the journalism for children's books and has been writing for children for eight years. She sees her mission in literature as finding simple ways to talk about complex topics to young readers using humour and imagination. Thanks to simplicity, warm colours and fluid outlines Ekaterina Krivich (born 1993) perfectly conveys the character of the protagonists even when those are inanimate objects.



The Secret Life of Vegetables: Funny Stories, Tasks and Tales

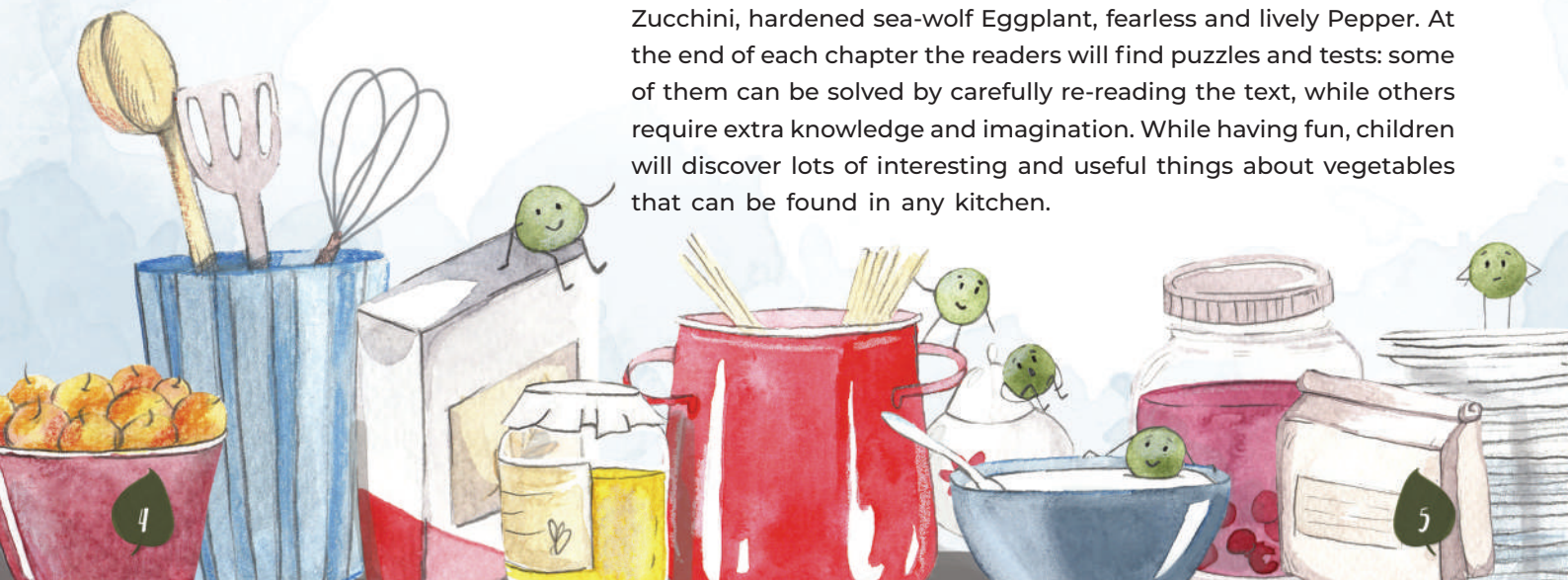
KompasGuide, 208 p.

Why shouldn't one look in the mirror on the Cabbage Ball? Will detectives Cherry Holmes and Dr. Tomato Watson solve the case of the disappeared vegetables? Why did Grandpa Potato change his pirate outfit to a general's uniform? Why is Uncle Chip so bad? The book answers these questions — and many others as well.

The characters get into funny and enthralling adventures. Potato learns its history. Cabbage participates in a competition for the best dress and finds out that even a simple white cabbage is valuable and good for health. If something remains unclear, the protagonists ask the wisest vegetable in the whole world for help. Auntie Pumpkin, living on the cupboard's top shelf, is rumoured to remember the history of vegetables from the days of Bean King. And she is always ready to share her knowledge.

This book for elementary students is, at the same time, an encyclopaedia, a collection of puzzles, a picture book and a fiction with an action-packed plot. Through their tales about kitchen vegetables, the authors implicitly share the basics of biology. They created characters with familiar personality types: funny and attentive Zucchini, hardened sea-wolf Eggplant, fearless and lively Pepper. At the end of each chapter the readers will find puzzles and tests: some of them can be solved by carefully re-reading the text, while others require extra knowledge and imagination. While having fun, children will discover lots of interesting and useful things about vegetables that can be found in any kitchen.

TAGS: *vegetables, kitchen, healthy food, biology*



Olga Azgaldova and Anastasia Kolbina: an entertaining way to explore nature



Olga Azgaldova is a pseudonym of one of the major authors of KompasGuide, whose writings stand out for a deep understanding of the world of children. For a remarkable collaboration, she joined the painter Anastasia Kolbina (born 1984), member of the Association of botanical art, who specialises in botanical watercolour.



A Summer to Remember. My First Collection of Plants

KompasGuide, 144 p.

If parents want their child to discover the world of plants, the best way to begin is to go outside and make a herbarium. The book by Olga Azgaldova will be a perfect tutorial and a herbarium journal at the same time. On the one hand, it contains the descriptions of plants and the instructions on how to collect and dry them. The texts are accompanied with fine, detailed and scientifically accurate watercolours that will enable the readers both to admire and to carefully study plants, flowers and trees. On the other hand, this book offers the readers a possibility to create their own collection. For this purpose, there are blank pages to store the collected species and accompany them with captions.

With this book, children and parents will spend a good time together. It can be read at home or taken in a forest or park. It aims to develop children's curiosity and creativity and will represent good memories when children grow up.

Collecting plants for herbarium is also the most inspiring and active way to take an interest in science. One enthusiastic boy, the Swede Carl Linnaeus, became a great scientist thanks to his passion: from the many plants he found, a whole scientific classification was born. Who knows what discoveries you will make as you build your collection!

TAGS: *nature, plants, flowers, trees, herbarium journal, collection, creativity, summer*



BACK



КомпасГид
издательский дом

BACK LIST

LIST



16+

Eugene Rudashevsky
Insomnia

KompasGuide, 224 p.

Tags: young adult, campus life, parent-child relationship, road novel, USA



16+

Victoria Lederman
First-Year Student

KompasGuide, 256 p.

Tags: student life, coming of age, first love, friendship, psychological novel, young adult

► Rights sold to Lithuania



14+

Svetlana Potapova
Alien Girl

KompasGuide, 128 p.

Tags: fashion industry, eating disorders, weight loss, parent-child relationship, coming of age, escape from home, troubled teenagers



Tamara Mikheeva
Do Not Betray Me

KompasGuide, 136 p.

Tags: friendship, betrayal, relations with classmates, first love, romance



Tamara Mikheeva
Swimming to the Cave

Illustrated by Masha Sudovykh
 KompasGuide, 160 p.

Tags: short stories, maturing, finding yourself, parent-child relationship, travelling, endurance

- Rights sold to Azerbaijan, UAE (Arabic worldwide)



Alina Pozharskaya
Other Cages.
Notes of a Volunteer

KompasGuide, 184 p.

Tags: volunteering, animal shelter, dogs, cats, animal care, city, friendship



Eduard Verkin
Cloud Regiment

KompasGuide, 296 p.

Tags: soviet mythology, partisan warfare, postmodernism, maturing

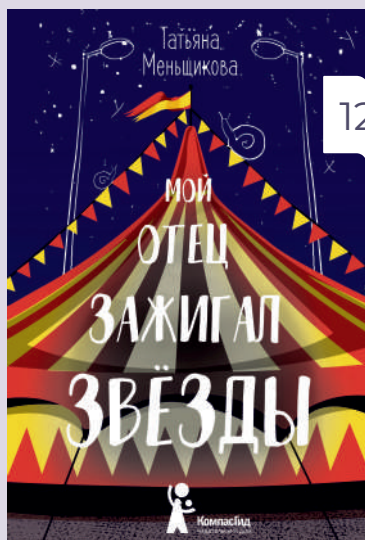
- ▶ Kniguru Prize (2011-2012)
- ▶ Rights sold to UAE (Arabic worldwide)
- ▶ 35000 copies sold



Pavel Vereshchagin
A Recipe of War

KompasGuide, 128 p.

Tags: allegory novel, dystopia, first love, satire



Tatyana Menshchikova
My Father
Used to Light the Stars

KompasGuide, 112 p.

Tags: friendship, parent-child relationship, single-parent families, father, school life



Elena Bumagina
The Fifth Sun

KompasGuide, 276 p.

Tags: mystery, coming of age, summer camp, friendship



Eugenia Ovchinnikova
Mortal Combat and Other 90s

KompasGuide, 144 p.

Tags: growing up, memories, 1990s, poverty, short stories, humour



Maria Boteva
You Lie

KompasGuide, 168 p.

Tags: city, village, family, friendship, school, horses, dog, pet, puppy, teenage rebellion, growing up, ageing



Julia Kuznetsova
R Home

Illustrated by Olga Gromova
KompasGuide, 192 p.

Tags: grandchildren/grandparents relationship, ageing, freedom, fantasy world

- ▶ Rights sold to Estonia, Hungary
- ▶ 40000 copies sold



Stanislav Olefir
**When I Was a Kid,
the War Went On**

Illustrated by Alexey Kapninsky
KompasGuide, 152 p.

Tags: true story, World War II, Occupation, childhood, animals, village



Antonina Malysheva
The Oblivion Cat

KompasGuide, 112 p.

Tags: school, friendship, magic realism, children-adults relationship, fantasy, amnesia



Tatyana Mart
Anka M. and Anka P.

Illustrated by Sergei Gavrilov
KompasGuide, 192 p.

*Tags: friendship, travel,
children-adults relationship*



Natalya Savushkina
A King's Deed

Illustrated by Ekaterina Tikhova
KompasGuide, 136 p.

*Tags: friendship, betrayal,
loss and grief, millennials,
1980s, Soviet childhood*



Victoria Lederman
The Classes Are Cancelled

KompasGuide, 104 p.

*Tags: school life,
student/teacher relationship,
funny stories, child psychology*



Alexander Blinov
The Mad Etiquette
or Twenty-Three
Edifying Stories
to Make Your Skin Crawl

Illustrated by Ekaterina Tikhova
 KompasGuide, 152 p.

Tags: short stories, etiquette, absurd, funny, school, friendship, parent-child relationship



Anastasia Strokina
The Bead of the Pocket Dwarf

Illustrated by Oleg Braude
 KompasGuide, 160 p.

Tags: journey, North, scary tale, illness, absurd

► Rights sold to China



Natalya Yevdokimova
Dandelions for Mum

Illustrated by Aleksandra Balashova
 KompasGuide, 168 p.

Tags: first reading, friendship, parent-child relationship, sibling relationship

GRANT PROGRAMS

The translation of Russian books are supported among others by two organisations based in Russia:



The Institute for Literary Translation

Applications have to be submitted online.
There are two grant-awarding sessions per year.

<https://eng.institutperevoda.ru/>



The Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation

(TRANSCRIPT grant program)
Applications have to be submitted online
and are accepted throughout the calendar year.

<http://prokhorovfund.com/projects/own/195/>

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