

# BOOKS FROM

---

# Croatia

---

The list was created by members of the Croatian Committee for library services for children and YA.

## 1 Pika Vončina Emilija u zemlji kotača [Emilija in the land of wheels]

Leykam International, 2009 • ISBN 978-953-7534-34-9



In this picture book the author presents Emilija - the sheep, and her numerous sheep family. Emilija loves to eat, she grows with time and one day she discovers that she can say "no". It is precisely her stubbornness that leads her into a true adventure. She refuses to go for a walk with the family, she takes her favourite toy and leaves. Her walk is cheerful at the beginning, but soon, the Lamb,

Emilija's favourite toy, loses a wheel. The search for the toy parts brings Emilija into a strange land of wheels.

The text is simple and short, appropriate for children just trying to read on their own. Illustrations merge with the text and express the motives that are not always expressed in words.

## 2 Sunčana Škrinjarić • Ana Kadoić, ill. Plesna haljina žutog maslačka [The Dance dress of the yellow dandelion]

Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2004 • ISBN 953-212-220-6



It is hard to see through the mysterious life of flowers, because flowers do not talk, preserving in such a way the secret place and the secret time of the annual flower-ball. Most of the flowers are gorgeous, beautiful and fragrant, just a dandelion considers himself unworthy to go to the ball. And when everything seems completely hopeless, the dandelion will get some help, given to him by somebody from whom such a thing would never

be expected. Insignificant until recently, this small flower with no odour nor colour will suddenly shine and dazzle all the participants with the most beautiful and most amazing fluffy dress. This poetic story talks about generosity and love that lie deep in every heart. Even those who seem to be the most brutal and untouchable individuals hide some goodness that sometimes needs to be slowly revealed.

### 3 Stanislav Marijanović **Knjiga čarobnih formula [The Book of the magic formula]**

Sipar, 1999 • ISBN 953-6415-20-8

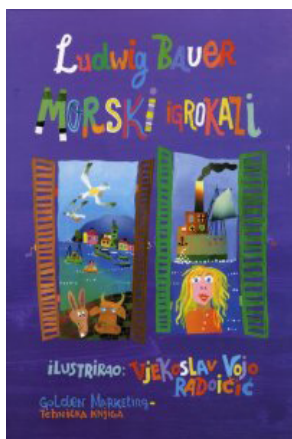


This unusual and witty tale introduces readers to the world of small, ugly, vicious and naughty monsters that are essentially sweet, kindhearted and likeable. They live near us, with us, inside us and make our lives different and happy. Small home-monsters show the characteristics and behavior of children and adults, and the recognition and identification with the characteristics and with names that represent those characters makes

the process of reading very amusing. In the story, the family goes on vacation convinced that they left their old house empty. But, that is not the case. Although the most of the monsters are hidden in the car, the two perky monsters remain at home. They find the "Book of magic formula" which, surely, has to be tested and tried out. The story of monsters is rich in humour expressed through imaginative illustrations.

### 4 Ludwig Bauer • Vjekoslav Vojo Radoičić, ill. **Title: Morski igrokazi [The sea plays]**

Golden marketing-Tehnička knjiga, 2005 • ISBN 953-212-245-1



The book contains two witty role-play dramatisations, "Treasure Hunt" and "Pearl Diver" that are the result of joint creative work of two excellent Croatian authors. Visually very appealing and interesting as an independent work, it also serves as a template for some further work, such as setting the play on the stage. It is a sort

of instruction for staging, and each reading reveals a new value in the written text and in colourful illustrations. Some pages of the picture book contain "windows", with some of the characters in the play, or even whole scenes hidden behind, which contributes to the liveliness of the book, like a stage.

### 5 Svjetlan Junaković **Ljubav spašava živote [Love saves lives]**

Algoritam, 2007 • ISBN 978-953-220-498-8



In this picture book the author succeeded to restore harmony within the world of children and the world of adults. With interesting solution the author divides the story into two parts. A smaller part describes the experiences of a girl called Ela, while the greatest part depicts Dad's reflections on them fishing together. Ela is a vivacious girl who is convinced that her dad is too busy and too serious, and he needs to relax. For Dad fishing means enjoying the peace and quiet, which is

impossible with Ela. For the imaginative girl daddy's hat represents a perfect boat, she releases bait-worms and leaves them to play, and throws stones exactly where her dad envisioned complete peace ... Although the different perceptions are intertwined through some fun, joy and gladness, dad is not always amused. However, children's sincerity and open heart demonstrate the importance of socializing, playing and having fun, and the true value of love that saves lives.

### 6 Sanja Lovrenčić • Tomislav Zlatić, ill. **Kako je dobro sa svim tim životinjama [It has been so good with all these animals]**

Leykam-International, 2009 • ISBN 978-953-7534-36-3



In a small house there is a place for everyone, for people and many different animals. They all live together in harmony although they are of very different habits, needs, characters, sizes and colours. No one is angry, and one does not bother anyone, like it is said in a saying: "where the inmate is not angry, no house is too small". Of course,

there can be even more animals, all are welcome and no one will be chased. Love for animals raises the goodness in every person. Children filled with love will become happy adults, and this is one of the ways how to teach children to accept tolerance and respect diversities and a harmonious life together.



## 7 Grigor Vitez • Tomislav Torjanac, ill. **Title: Kako živi Antuntun [How Antuntun lives]**

Mozaik knjiga, 2009 • ISBN: ??

The book is based on the Grigor Vitez anthological poem which many generations of readers enjoyed for over a hundred years. The poem carries a strong message of accepting differences among people which is important to develop in an early age, because Antuntun was kind-hearted and a very special person, different from all. Perhaps he

sometimes looks weird or behaves in a way that no one expects or performs in the real world, but that in fact is his value. Imaginative illustrations of good-hearted and unusual Antuntun with lots of funny scenes represent delight for the eyes and soul of children and adults.

## 8 Dubravka Pađen-Farkaš • Dražen Jerabek, ill. **Gospodin Otto i stari naslonjači [Mr. Otto and old armchairs]**

Sipar, 2010 • ISBN 978-953-6415-75-5



This story is about Mr. Otto who is a master upholsterer. He repairs the old chairs and covers them with beautiful new materials of amazing colours and patterns. Anyone who sits in a refurbished piece of furniture, sails away in a different world and feels marvelous. Master Otto has a neighbour, a curious little girl who loves to watch him through the window of her room. She is very curious about the blue haze which envelopes

his home while he is working. When the old master and a small neighbor finally meet, the girl will discover the whole unknown world. Thanks to the unusual master she will find out the secret - how, with lots of knowledge and skills, some good will, and a little magic, to restore not only the old chairs, but people as well, their already worn ties and relationships. With a little imagination (or green mist), they become - like new.

## 9 Sonja Zubović • Marijana Jelić, ill. **Čudesna kuharica Lize Brljize [The amazing cook-book of Liza Brljiza]**

Published by the author, 2010 • ISBN: 978-953-56354-0-6



We all know that our fondest memories are related to storytelling, delicious food and odours spreading from the mother's or grandmother's kitchen. The most precious moments are spent with those who we love, and today's lifestyle does not leave enough time to enjoy the togetherness. The kitchen is a place where everyone can hang out, cook and try

out various dishes, and The amazing cook-book of Lisa Brljiza, with its simple homemade recipes and verses encourages both children and parents to enjoy preparing meals together and to read poetry. It is still nice and comfortable to be in such homes where families often hang out at the table.

## 10 Želimir Hercigonja • Marsela Hajdinjak-Kreč, ill. **Vodenjak i stara kruška [Water-sprite and the old pear tree]**

Naklada Haid, 2005.; ISBN: 953-6897-49-0



Once upon a time everything was different, the air was cool and the water in wells was crystal-clear, with special flavour, all thanks to the diligent water-sprites. There was a little water-sprite who looked after a well, placed in the shade of an old pear tree. His life was beautiful until the old pear dried up and was left without fruit, and out of sadness he neglected the cleanliness of the well. Crying for the

past times the water-sprite could not find solution. With a simple advice an owl startled the sprite, and soon the water in the well became clear again. The well is proclaimed Caesarean, and he became a Caesarean water-sprite. The text reveals to children the beauty in everything that surrounds them, and is complemented by melancholic illustrations.