

# Everything's a story: the magic of children's literature

Our stories are born with us, shaped by what we see, hear, do and read. Some of our most memorable experiences and valuable lessons come from our childhood books. Postal authorities around the world recognise the importance of children's books and have celebrated some of the most beloved stories on postage stamps. You might think children's literature could be easily defined as "books for kids". Although one can classify and study literature according to genres, not all books fit into one and only one category. Not everyone organises literature genres in exactly the same way. I chose to organise them as follows:

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**Cyprus – EUROPA 2010**  
0.51€ Children's Books



Printing: Offset lithography  
Format: Se-tenant  
Perforation: 13¼ × 13¼

**Finland – EUROPA 2010**  
0.80€ Children's Books  
(part of a minisheet)



Printing: Offset lithography  
by Joh, Enschedé  
Designer: Leena Lumme  
Perforation: 14 × 13¼

## 1. Bibliography

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## 2. Early childhood picture books

These are books that provide a visual experience through the telling of a story using images. One of the hallmarks of picture books is that they are designed to be read aloud. These books are written for children from ages birth through age 6. What makes a picture book distinctive is that it conveys its message through a series of pictures with only a small amount, or none, of text. The illustrations are as important as, or more important than, the text in conveying the message.



Isle of Man 2006  
The tales of Beatrix Potter minisheet

Issued by: Royal Mail  
Printing: Offsett lithography

Designer: The Agency Ltd.  
Perforation: Harrow 13

**Beatrix Potter** (28 July 1866–22 December 1943) is one of the world's best-loved children's authors. At age 27, she sent an illustrated animal story to a sick child of a former governess, about four bunnies named Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, and Peter. The illustrated letter was so well received that she decided to privately publish it. She is best known for her children's books featuring animals, such as *The tale of Peter Rabbit*, which was her first commercially published work in 1902. Her books, including *The tale of Jemima Puddle Duck* and *The tale of Tom Kitten*, have sold more than 250 million copies.



Great Britain 1979  
International Year of the child first day cover

Printing: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: Edward Hughes Perforation: comb 14¼ × 14¾

**Peter Rabbit** is far more adventurous than his siblings: Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail. He is a mischievous, adventurous young rabbit who wears a blue jacket.

Printing: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
 Designer: Edward Hughes  
 Perforation: comb 14¼ × 14¼



**Great Britain 1979**  
 Children's book illustrations  
 (set of 4)  
 9p – The tale of Peter Rabbit  
 by Beatrix Potter.

**Alderney 2013**  
 The life of Beatrix Potter

Printing: Offset lithography  
 by Cartor Security Printing  
 Designer: The Potting Shed  
 Perforation: 13¼ × 13¼



40p – **Beatrix Potter** in her childhood. The dog in the image is based on a springer spaniel called 'Spot'.

53p – **Beatrix Potter** enjoyed walking in the countryside around her hometown 'Near Sawrey'.



55p – **Beatrix Potter** feeding a duck, the scene is framed by the beautiful hills of the lake district in the background.



71p – **Beatrix Potter** is pictured drawing a cat on a basket in reference to the Peter Rabbit story.

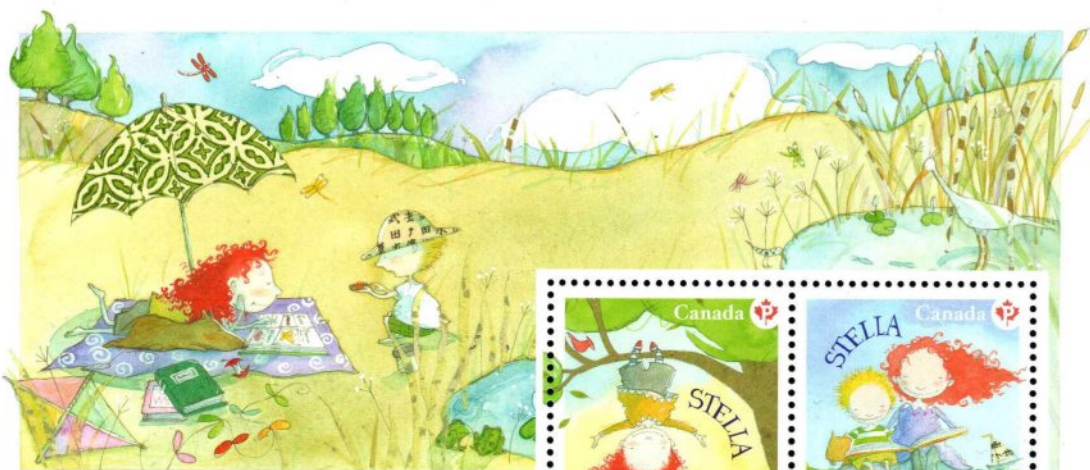


63p – **Beatrix Potter** would often gather things to draw and include in her stories.



79p – **Beatrix Potter** enjoying a stroll through an idyllic farm.

**Marie-Louise Gay**, one of Canada's best-loved creators of children's books, has published more than 60 titles and achieved international acclaim for her work. **Stella**, her brother Sam and their pet dog Fred explore the world around them, bringing readers along on their many adventures. The three spend a day in the forest, where Stella answers Sam's questions about the forest's inhabitants. They take a nocturnal walk to explore the moon and the stars in the company of raccoons, fireflies and bats. They enjoy a winter escapade, complete with snowballs, snow angels, and snow-covered trees.



LOWE-MARTIN, Design : q30 design inc., Illustration : Marie-Louise Gay  
 Illustrations copyright – tous droits réservés © 2012, 2013 : Marie-Louise Gay  
 (www.marie-louise-gay.com), Illustrations courtesy of / autoursées par  
 Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press (www.houseofanansi.com).

**Canada 2013**  
 Stella souvenir sheet,  
 domestic rate

Printing: Lithography by Lowe-Martin  
 Designer: Q30 desing Inc.  
 Perforation: 12¼

**Alan Alexander Milne** (18 January 1882–31 January 1956) was an English writer best known for his books about the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh. Milne was primarily a playwright before the huge success of *Winnie-the-Pooh* overshadowed his previous work. He served as a lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the First World War and as a captain in the Home Guard in the Second World War.

**Winnie-the-Pooh** (also known as *Edward Bear*, *Pooh Bear* or simply *Pooh*) is a fictional anthropomorphic teddy bear.



**Great Britain 1979**  
Children's book illustrations  
(set of 4)  
11p – Winnie-the-Pooh

Printing: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: Edward Hughes  
Perforation: comb 14% × 14%

**Frane Milčinski** (pen name Ježek; 14 December 1914–26 February 1988) was a Slovene poet, satirist, humorist and comedian, actor, children's writer, and director. *Sleepy Little Star* was written in 1952. Milčinski won the Levstik Award in 1959 for his story *Zvezdica Zaspanka* (*The Sleepy Little Star*).

**Sleepy Little Star** is the youngest star in the sky. Because she constantly comes late to her work, the Moon sends her to Earth to punish her. She may return to the sky when she proves that she has learnt her lesson. Among the people she meets on Earth there is also a bandit Ceferin, who wants to steal her golden hair. Due to *Sleepy Little Star's* innocent goodness his heart starts to beat instead of the stone he had before. Twinkle Sleepyhead returns to the sky.



**Slovenia 2006**  
Characters from children's books  
A – Sleepy Little Star

Printing: Offset lithography  
Designer: Studio Arnoldvuga  
Perforation: comb 14

**Mira Lobe** (born Hilde Mirjam Rosenthal; 17 September 1913–6 February 1995) was an Austrian writer of more than 100 children's books. In all of Mira Lobe's books, peace, tolerance and social awareness are important topics. Many of them were illustrated by Susi Weigel. Her picture book *I am me* was published in 1989.

A small animal is walking in a colourful flower meadow. It feels related to many other animals, although it is not the same as any it encounters. It is not a horse, not a cow, not a bird, not a hippopotamus – and slowly it begins to doubt itself. But then the little animal realises: I am not just someone, **I AM ME!**

**Austria 2012**  
62c - The little I am me

Printing: Offset lithography  
Designer: P. Sachartschenko  
Perforation: comb 13%



**Bárður Oskarsson** (born 18 July 1972 in Tórshavn) is a Faroese children's writer, illustrator and artist, who has won several literary awards. His books have been translated into Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, French, German and Czech.

**A dog, a cat and a mouse** live together in peace and harmony. But ... they are all bored. They try to remember the good old days when they had much more fun. Then one day mouse hits dog's tail with a hammer and suddenly things take a turn!



**Faroe Islands Europa 2010**  
A dog, a cat and a mouse

Printing: Offset lithography by OeSD Austria  
Designer: Bárður Oskarsson  
Perforation: comb 13%

**Janus á Húsagarði** (born 13 December 1975) is a Danish children's writer and illustrator.

**Moss Mollis' journey** is about one of the small trolls in the Faroes that can stand the sun, a fact which enables it to travel around the islands at will. The journey commences at the bottom of the ocean where Moss Mollis picks up a pearl from an open horse mussel. With this pearl it travels across the country on the back of a gannet, of a horse, of a whale, of a crow and of a ram until it finds its darling troll who gets the pearl and who sits at his side in the moonlight watching the sea.



**Faroe Islands Europa 2010**  
Moss Mollis' journey

Printing: Offset lithography by OeSD Austria  
Designer: Janus á Húsagarði  
Perforation: comb 13%

**Wilbert Vere Awdry** OBE (15 June 1911–21 March 1997), often credited as Rev. W. Awdry, was an English Anglican minister, railway enthusiast, and children's author. He is best remembered as the creator of *Thomas the Tank Engine* and several other characters who appeared in his *Railway Series*. In the second book in the series, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, Awdry wrote this "letter" to his son Christopher:

*Dear Christopher,  
Here is your friend Thomas, the Tank Engine.  
He wanted to come out of his station-yard and see the world.  
These stories tell you how he did it.  
I hope you will like them because you helped me to make them.  
Your Loving Daddy*

Great Britain 2011

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Wilbert V. Awdry, 1911–1997

**Thomas** is a locomotive on The Fat Controller's North Western Railway on the Island of Sodor alongside *Edward the Blue Engine*, *Henry the Green Engine*, *Gordon the Big Engine*, *James the Red Engine*, *Percy the Small Engine*, *Toby the Tram Engine*, *Daisy the Diesel Railcar*, and many other locomotives. Thomas works at the big station, fetching coaches for the big engines and longs for greater things beyond the station yard. Unfortunately, his efforts go wrong. However, after showing that he can be a useful engine following James' accident with some trucks, he is rewarded with his own branch line and two faithful coaches named *Annie* and *Clarabel*.



1st - Thomas the Tank Engine



66p - James the Red Engine



68p - Percy the Small Engine



76p - Daisy the Diesel Railcar



£1.00 - Toby the Tram Engine



£1.10 - Gordon the Big Engine

Printing: Offset lithography by Cartor Security Printing

Designer: Elmwood

Perforation: 14½ × 14

### 3. Fiction

Fiction is literary works designed to entertain; the content being produced by the imagination of an identifiable author(s).

#### 3.1 Fantasy

This is a fiction story with highly fanciful or supernatural elements that would be impossible in real life. It is set in an imaginary universe, often but not always without any locations, events, or people from the real world. Magic, the supernatural and magical creatures are common in many of these imaginary worlds.

**J R R Tolkien** (3 January 1892–2 September 1973) was an English writer and philologist and author of the high fantasy works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. *The Hobbit*, or *There and Back Again* is a children's fantasy published in 1937, being nominated for the Carnegie Medal and awarded a prize from the New York Herald Tribune for best juvenile fiction. It is a classic in children's literature and is one of the best-selling books of all time, with over 100 million copies sold.

*The Hobbit* is set in Middle-earth and follows home-loving Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit of the title, who joins the wizard Gandalf and the 13 dwarves of Thorin's Company, on a quest to reclaim the dwarves' home and treasure from the dragon Smaug. Bilbo's journey takes him from his peaceful rural surroundings into more sinister territory.



Great Britain 1998

Magical Worlds: Classic Fantasy Books for Children (set of 5)  
20p - The Hobbit

Printing: Photogravure by De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

Designer: Peter Malone

Perforation: 15 × 14

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (27 January 1832–14 January 1898), better known by his pen name **Lewis Carroll**, was an English author, poet, mathematician, photographer and reluctant Anglican deacon. His most notable works are *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and its sequel *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871).

**Maldives 1980**  
Alice in Wonderland

Printing: Offset lithography by  
Format International Security Printers Ltd.  
Perforation: comb 11



*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is about a girl named Alice who falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world of anthropomorphic creatures. When Alice follows the **White Rabbit** down a rabbit hole, she finds herself in a land where she can change her size. She meets a Duchess with a pig for a baby, a Cook that throws spoons, a wise but mad **Cheshire cat**, the March Hare, Mad Hatter and a Dormouse. A **Caterpillar** shows her how to adjust her height by eating from the right and left sides of a mushroom.



**1979 Great Britain**  
Children's book illustrations  
(set of 4)  
13p – Alice's adventures  
in Wonderland

Printing: Photogravure by  
Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: Edward Hughes  
Perforation: comb 14¼ × 14¾

**C S Lewis** (29 November 1898–22 November 1963) was a British writer, literary scholar, and Anglican lay theologian best known as the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* of which the **Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** form part. It is a portal fantasy for children published in 1950.

It is set in Narnia, a land of talking animals and mythical creatures that is ruled by the evil White Witch. Four English children are relocated to a large, old country house following a wartime evacuation. The youngest, Lucy, visits Narnia three times via the magic of a wardrobe in a spare room. Lucy's three siblings are with her on her third visit to Narnia. In Narnia, the siblings seem fit to fulfil an old prophecy and find themselves adventuring to save Narnia and their own lives. The lion Aslan gives his life to save one of the children; he later rises from the dead, vanquishes the White Witch, and crowns the children Kings and Queens of Narnia.

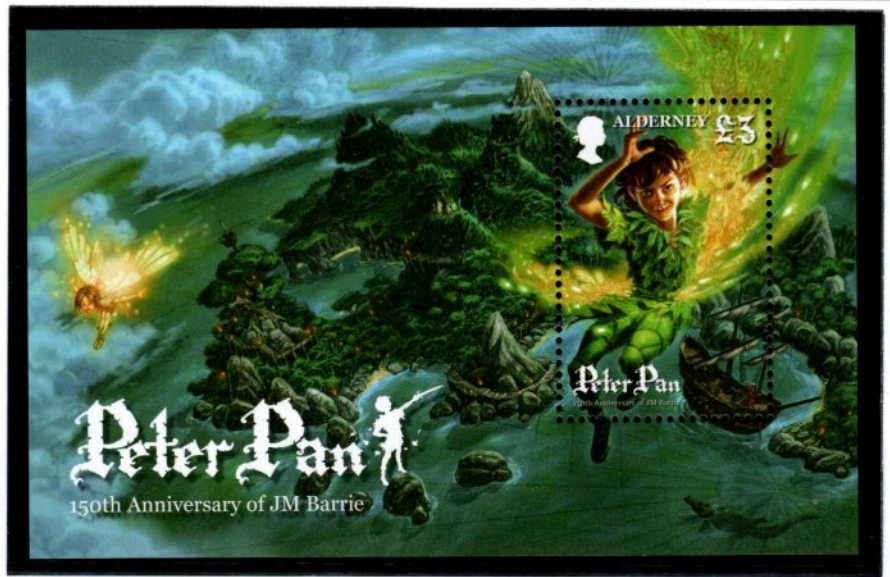
**Great Britain 1998**  
Magical Worlds: Classic Fantasy Books for  
Children (set of 5)  
26p – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



Printing: Photogravure by De La Rue & Co. Ltd.  
Designer: Peter Malone  
Perforation: 15 × 14

Sir James Matthew Barrie, 1st Baronet, OM (9 May 1860–19 June 1937) a Scottish novelist and playwright, remembered as the creator of *Peter Pan*. He was born and educated in Scotland and later moved to London.

*Peter Pan*; or, *The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, is a work in the form of a 1904 play and a 1911 novel titled *Peter and Wendy*. Both versions tell the story of Peter Pan, a mischievous little boy who can fly, and has many adventures on the island of Neverland that is inhabited by mermaids, fairies, Native Americans, and pirates. The story also involves the characters *Wendy Darling* and her two brothers John and Michael, Peter's fairy *Tinker Bell*, the *Lost Boys*, and the pirate *Captain Hook*.



Alderney 2010  
3£ – Peter Pan minisheet

Printing: Offset lithography by Cartor Security Printing  
Designer: Two Degrees North  
Perforation: comb 13½

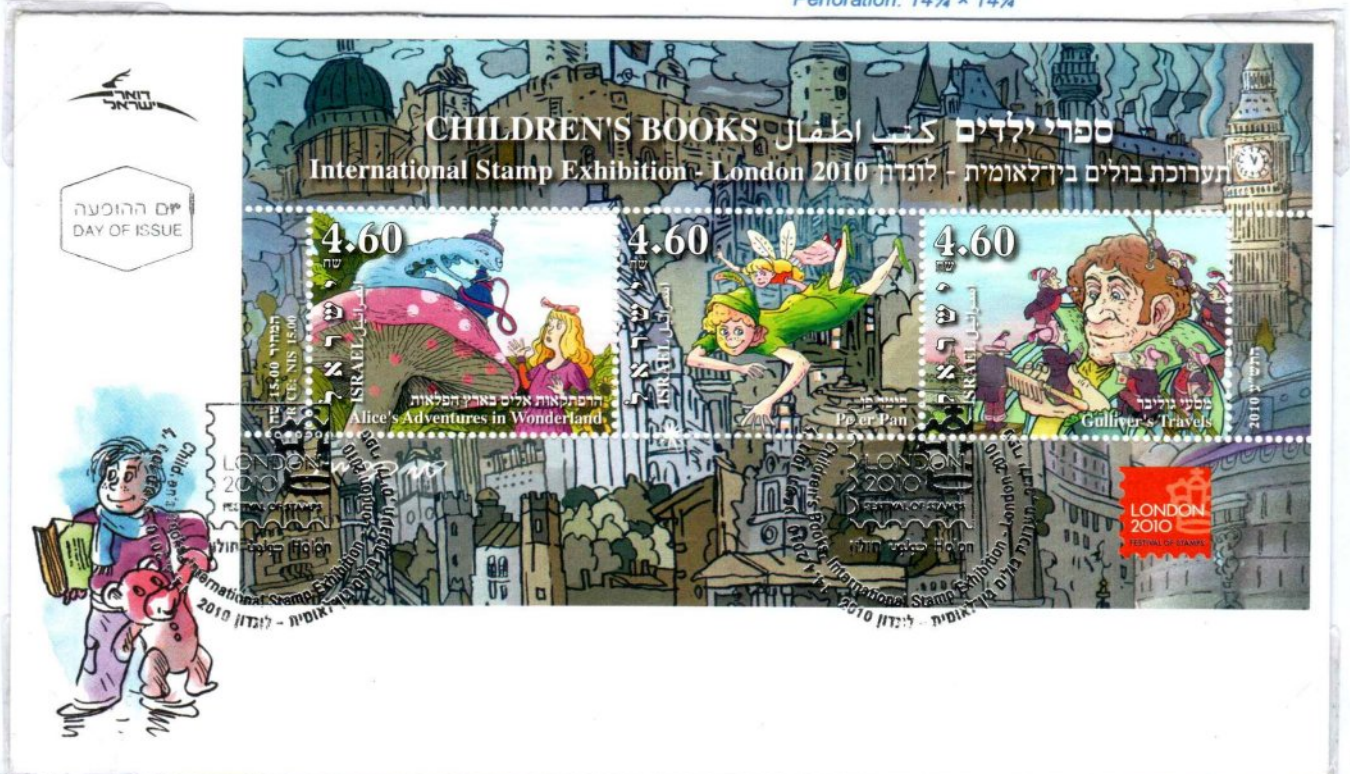
Alderney 2010  
150th Anniversary of the birth of JM Barrie



Printing: Offset lithography by Cartor Security Printing  
Designer: Two Degrees North  
Perforation: comb 13½

Israel 2010  
International Stamp Exhibition London Minisheet (142 x 75 mm)

Printing: Offset lithography  
Designers: Danny Kerman & Yigal Gabai  
Perforation: 14% x 14%



**Dominica 1980**  
Scenes from Peter Pan  
(set of 9)

Printing: Offset lithography by  
Walsall Security Printers Ltd.  
Designer: Walt Disney Productions  
Perforation: comb 11



### 3.2 Animal fantasy

This is fantasy where the main characters are anthropomorphic animals that display human characteristics. These are stories of quests, battles, cultures, and journeys with animals as their protagonists. The animals have human-type characteristics, relationships, dilemmas, and thoughts. Very few of these stories involve humans and in those that do, the animals remain the central characters.

**Rupert Bear** is an English children's comic strip character and franchise created by **Herbert Tourtel** and illustrated by his wife, the artist **Mary Tourtel**, first appearing in the Daily Express newspaper in 1920. **Alfred Bestall** took it over in 1935. About 50 million copies have been sold worldwide.

**Rupert** is a bear who lives with his parents in a house in Nutwood, a fictional idyllic English village. He wears a red jumper and bright yellow checked trousers, with matching yellow scarf. Rupert's animal friends are his "chums" or "pals." Aside from his best friend Bill Badger, some of the most enduring pals are an elephant (Edward Trunk), a mouse (Willie), Pong-Ping the Pekingese, Algy Pug, Podgy Pig, Bingo the Brainy Pup, the identical twins Freddy and Ferdie Fox, the identical twins Reggie and Rex Rabbit, and Ming the dragon.



**Great Britain 1994**  
1<sup>ST</sup> – Rupert Bear

Printing: Photogravure  
by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: Newell and  
Sorrell  
Perforation: 14% × 14%

**Thomas Michael Bond CBE** (13 January 1926–27 June 2017) was an English author best known for children's books featuring the character of **Paddington Bear**. Paddington's adventures have sold over 35 million books worldwide, have been published in nearly 20 countries, in over 40 languages.

**Paddington Bear**, the friendly, anthropomorphised spectacled bear from "darkest Peru", whose Aunt Lucy sends him to the United Kingdom, carrying a jar of marmalade. He has an old hat, battered suitcase, duffel coat and love marmalade sandwiches. Paddington is always polite, addressing people as "Mr", "Mrs", and "Miss", but rarely by first names, and kindhearted, though he inflicts hard stares on those who incur his disapproval. He has an endless capacity for innocently getting into trouble, but is known to "try so hard to get things right".



**Great Britain 1994**  
1<sup>ST</sup> – Paddington Bear  
on Station

Printing: Photogravure  
by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: Newell and  
Sorrell  
Perforation: 14% × 14%

**Roald Dahl** (13 September 1916–23 November 1990) was a British author of popular children's literature and short stories, a poet, screenwriter and a wartime fighter ace. His books have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide. He has been called "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century". Dahl's children's books are known for their unsentimental, macabre, often darkly comic mood, featuring villainous adult enemies of the child characters.

***Fantastic Mr Fox*** is an anthropomorphic, tricky, and clever fox who lives underground beside a tree with his wife and four children. To feed his family, he makes nightly visits to local farms owned by three cruel, rude, wicked and dim-witted farmers named Boggis, Bunce, and Bean, stealing poultry from each.

Great Britain 2012  
Roald Dahl's children's stories (set of 6)  
66p – Fantastic Mr Fox



Printing: Offset lithography by Cartor Security Printing  
Designer: Maggie Studio  
Perforation: 14 × 14

### 3.3 Realistic fiction

This is a fictional story set in modern times with events that could possibly occur. The idea that the novel is a full and authentic report of human experience. It attempts to represent subject-matter truthfully, avoiding speculative fiction.

**Astrid Anna Emilia Lindgren** (14 November 1907–28 January 2002) was a Swedish writer. She is best known for several children's book series, featuring ***Pippi Longstocking***, ***Emil of Lönneberga***, ***Karlsson-on-the-Roof***, and ***The Six Bullerby Children***, and for the children's fantasy novels ***Mio, My Son***, ***Ronia the Robber's Daughter***, and ***The Brothers Lionheart***. In 2017, she was calculated to be the world's 18th most translated author and by 2010 sold roughly 167 million books worldwide.



Sweden 1987  
First day cover:

The 80th anniversary of the birth of Astrid Lindgren, 1907–2002

Printing: Offset lithography and recess  
Designer: Zlatko Jakuš (main) with various others  
Perforation: 12½ three sided

### 3.4 Historical fiction

This is a realistic story in a real world setting in the historical past with events that are partly historical but largely imaginative. It is fiction in which a fictional plot takes place in the setting of particular real historical events. Authors also frequently choose to explore notable historical figures in these settings, allowing readers to better understand how these individuals might have responded to their environments.

**Robert Louis Stevenson** (13 November 1850–3 December 1894) was a Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer. He is best known for works such as *Treasure Island*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Kidnapped* and *A Child's Garden of Verses*.

*Treasure Island* (a.k.a. *The Sea Cook: A Story for Boys*) is an adventure and historical novel. Published in 1883, it tells a story of "buccaneers and buried gold" set in the 1700s. It is considered a coming-of-age story and is noted for its atmosphere, characters, and action.



3 sene

Long John Silver, from "Treasure Island"

Samoa 1969

75th Anniversary of the death  
of Robert Louis Stevenson

Printing: Offset lithography  
by De La Rue & Co. Ltd.  
Designer: Jennifer Toombs  
Perforation: 14 × 13½



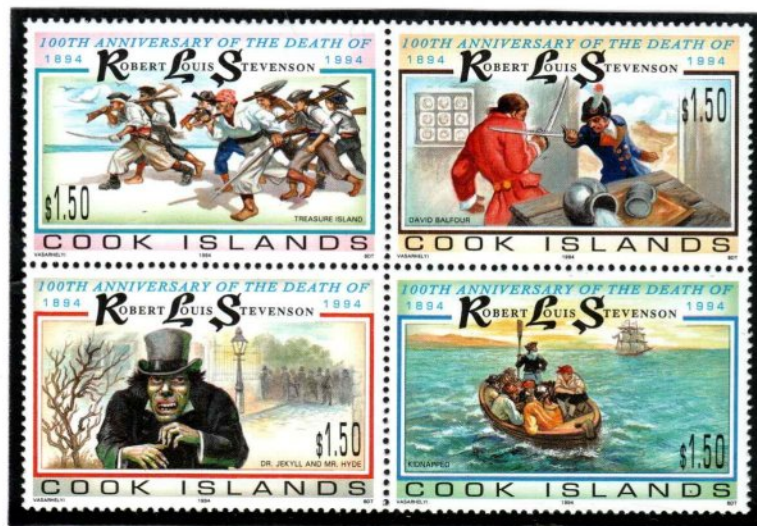
7 sene

Stewart and Balfour on the moor, from "Kidnapped"

*Kidnapped* is a historical fiction adventure novel, written as a boys' novel. It opens with David Balfour, setting off on a journey to his family's ancestral home at Cramond, Edinburgh. His Uncle Ebenezer is odd and unwelcoming. David soon begins to get the impression that his uncle is plotting against him and he finds himself unwittingly taken to sea on board the *Covenant*, with its rag-tag crew of miscreants. Luckily for David, the next accidental acquisition to the crew is the Jacobite Alan Breck Stewart. Together, Alan and David overturn a murder plot, and embark on a series of swashbuckling adventures together, as their journey leads them back across Scotland.

Cook Islands 1994  
100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of  
Robert Louis Stevenson  
(set of 4)

Printing: Offset lithography  
Designer: Laszlo Gyula (Julian) Vasarhelyi  
Perforation: 14 × 14½



## 4. Traditional literature

Traditional literature consists of stories that have been passed down orally and in written form throughout history and is found in cultures throughout the world reflecting the norms of its people. Myths, fables, legends, tall tales, fairy tales, and folk tales are part of this genre.

### 4.1 Myths

A myth is a story of the gods, a religious account of the beginning of the world, the creation. A myth expresses and confirms society's religious values and norms. The main characters in myths are usually non-humans, such as gods, demigods, and other supernatural figures.

### 4.1.1 Norse mythology

Before the Norse (the Vikings) converted to Christianity during the Middle Ages, they had their own vibrant native pagan religion that was as harshly beautiful as the Nordic landscape to which it was intimately connected. The centrepiece of that religion was what we today call "Norse mythology:" the set of religious stories that gave meaning to the Vikings' lives. These myths revolved around gods and goddesses with fascinating and highly complex characters, such as Odin, Thor, Freya, and Loki.

**The fate of the Gods** is an Icelandic children's book published in 2008 and deals with Nordic mythology. The author is **Ingunn Ásdísardóttir**, while Kristin Ragna Gunnarsdottir illustrated the book and designed the cover.



**Europa 2010**  
ISK 165 – The fate of the Gods

Printing: Offset lithography by  
Osterreichische Staatsdruckerei  
Designer: Orn Smari Gislason  
Perforation: 13¾ × 13¾

### 4.1.2 Romanian mythology

Romanian mythology is vibrant and often scary, full of blood-sucking creatures, vicious and fickle lovers, and bloody battles. Not to mention great and powerful heroes without age and giants who keep guard over the earth! With immense dark forests, mysterious mountains, and, in many periods of history, enemies on all sides, it's no wonder the stories are often quite dark. You'll also find that some of the figures are shared with the neighbouring Hungarian mythology, as borders were fluid and travellers have been moving between the two forever.

**Moldovia 2010**  
1.20 L, Punguta cu doi Bani



Printing: Offset lithography by Tipografia Centrală, Chişinău  
Designers: Vitalie Roşca & Yuri Leu  
Perforation: comb 14 × 14½

**The two-penny purse (Punguta cu doi Bani)** is a story written by Ion Creangă, the original edition of which was first published in 1876. The story symbolically shows how a poor person can become wealthy. The story is a variant of popular mythology, already attested in antiquity, linked to domestic items – the hen and the rooster - as symbols. If well cared for, "good housekeeping brings wealth".

**Ion Creangă** (1 March 1837–31 December 1889), was a Moldovan writer. A main figure in 19th-century Romanian literature, his writings occupy the middle ground between folkloric sources and an original contribution to a literary realism of rural

**Ileana Cosânzeana** is a figure in Romanian mythology. She is represented as a beautiful and good-natured princess or daughter of an emperor or described as a fairy with immense powers.

**Moldovia 2000**  
25b – Ileana Cosânzeana



Printing: Offset lithography by Bundesdruckerei Berlin  
Designer: Filimon Hămuraru  
Perforation: comb 13¾

### 4.2 Fables

A fable can be defined as a narrative form usually featuring animals that behave and speak as human beings, told to highlight human follies and weaknesses. A moral, or lesson for behaviour, is woven into the story and often explicitly formulated at the end.

**Kenneth Grahame** (8 March 1859–6 July 1932) was a British writer. He is best remembered for the classic of children's literature *The Wind in the Willows* (1908).

**The Wind in the Willows** details the story of Mole, Ratty, and Badger as they try to help Mr. Toad, after he becomes obsessed with motorcars and gets into trouble. It also details short stories about them that are disconnected from the main narrative. The novel was based on bedtime stories Grahame told his son Alastair.



**Great Britain 1979**  
Children's book illustrations  
(set of 4)  
10½p – The wind in the willows

Printing: Photogravure by  
Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: Edward Hughes  
Perforation: comb 14¾ × 14¾

Israel 1994  
The 50th anniversary of the death of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Printing: Offset lithography  
Perforation: comb 14

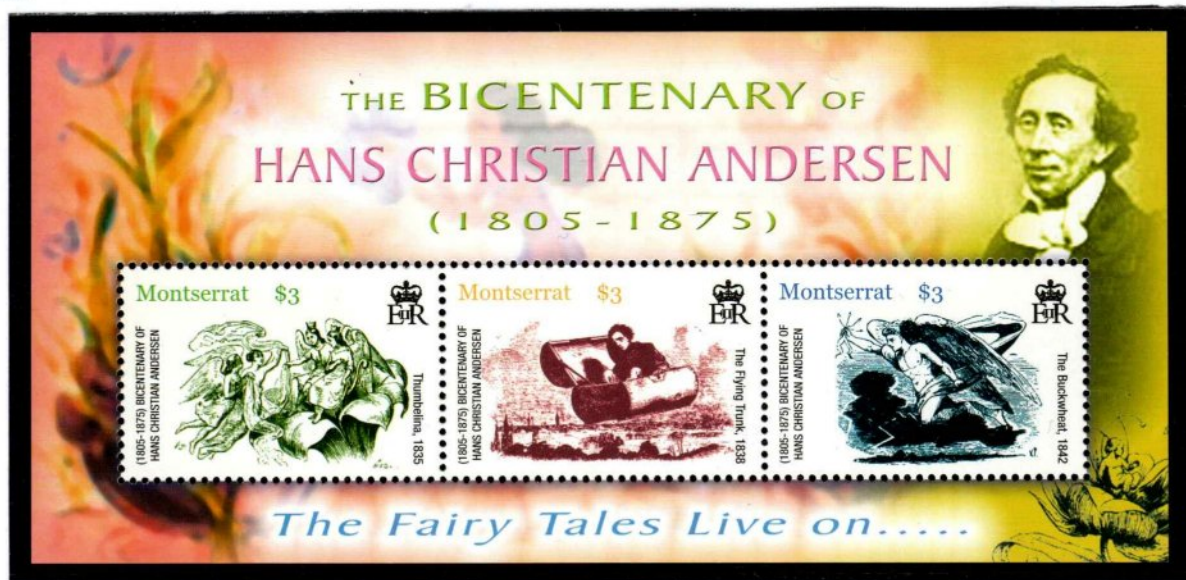


**The Little Prince (Le Petit Prince)** is written and illustrated by French writer and military pilot **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry** (29 June 1900–c. 31 July 1944). The story follows a young prince who visits various planets, including Earth, and addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss.

### 4.3 Fairy tales

Such stories typically feature magic, enchantments, and mythical or fanciful beings. In most cultures, there is no clear line separating myth from folk or fairy tale. Prevalent elements include dragons, dwarfs, elves, fairies, giants, gnomes, goblins, griffins, merfolk, monsters, monarchy, pixies, talking animals, trolls, unicorns, witches, wizards, magic, and enchantments.

**Hans Christian Andersen** (2 April 1805–4 August 1875) was a Danish author best remembered for his literary fairy tales. Andersen's fairy tales, consisting of 156 stories across nine volumes, have been translated into more than 125 languages.



Printing: Offset lithography by  
Beijing Stamp Printing House  
Perforation: 12%

**Montserrat 2005**  
The 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Hans Christian Andersen, 1805-1875 minisheet  
\$3 – Thumbelina 1835  
\$3 – The flying trunk 1838  
\$3 – The buckwheat 1842

**Benedek Elek** (30 September 1859–17 August 1929) was a Hungarian journalist and writer, widely known as "The Great Folk-Tale Teller" of the "Szekely Hungarian" fairy-tales.



**Hungary 2009**

The 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Benedek Elek, 1859–1929

100+50 Ft – Portrait of Benedek Elek

100+50 Ft – King of Kacor

100Ft – Three little pigs

100Ft – The diamond purse

Printing: Offset lithography by Pénzjegynyomda

Designer: Edit Szalma

Perforation: comb 12 × 12½

**Snow White** is a German fairy tale, first written down in the early 19th century. The **Brothers Grimm** published it in 1812 in the first edition of their collection *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. The fairy tale features elements such as the magic mirror, the poisoned apple, the glass coffin, and the characters of the Evil Queen and the seven Dwarfs. Jealous of Snow White's beauty, the wicked queen orders the murder of her innocent stepdaughter, but later discovers that Snow White is still alive and hiding in a cottage with seven friendly little miners. Disguising herself as a hag, the queen brings a poisoned apple to Snow White, who falls into a death-like sleep that can be broken only by a kiss from the prince.

**Grenada 1980**  
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Printing: Offset lithography by Wallsall Security Printers Ltd.

Designer: Walt Disney Productions

Perforation: comb 11



**Hansel and Gretel** is a German fairy tale set in medieval Germany and collected by the **Brothers Grimm**, and published in 1812 as part of *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Hansel and Gretel are siblings who are abandoned in a forest and fall into the hands of a witch who lives in a house made of bread, cake, and sugar. The witch, who has cannibalistic intentions, intends to fatten Hansel before eventually eating him. However, Gretel saves her brother by pushing the witch into her own oven, killing her, and escaping with the witch's treasure.



Germany 1961  
Stories of the Brothers Grimm: Hansel and Gretel

Printing: Offset lithography by Bundesdruckerei Berlin  
Designer: Albert "Bert" Jäger  
Perforation: 14 × 13¾

#### 4.4 Tall tales

This narrative depicts the wild adventures of extravagantly exaggerated folk heroes. A tall tale is a story with unbelievable elements, as if it were true and factual. Some tall tales are exaggerations of actual events, for example fish stories ("the fish that got away"). Events are often told in a way that makes the narrator seem to have been a part of the story.

**Roald Dahl** (13 September 1916–23 November 1990) was one of the world's most imaginative, successful and loved storytellers. His stories are currently published in 49 languages worldwide. They continue to inspire the world's most creative collaborators, resulting in wonderful new movie adaptations, classical music, opera, plays and musicals.

**James and the giant peach** centres on a young English orphan boy who enters a gigantic, magical peach, and has a wild and surreal cross-world adventure with seven magically altered garden bugs he meets.



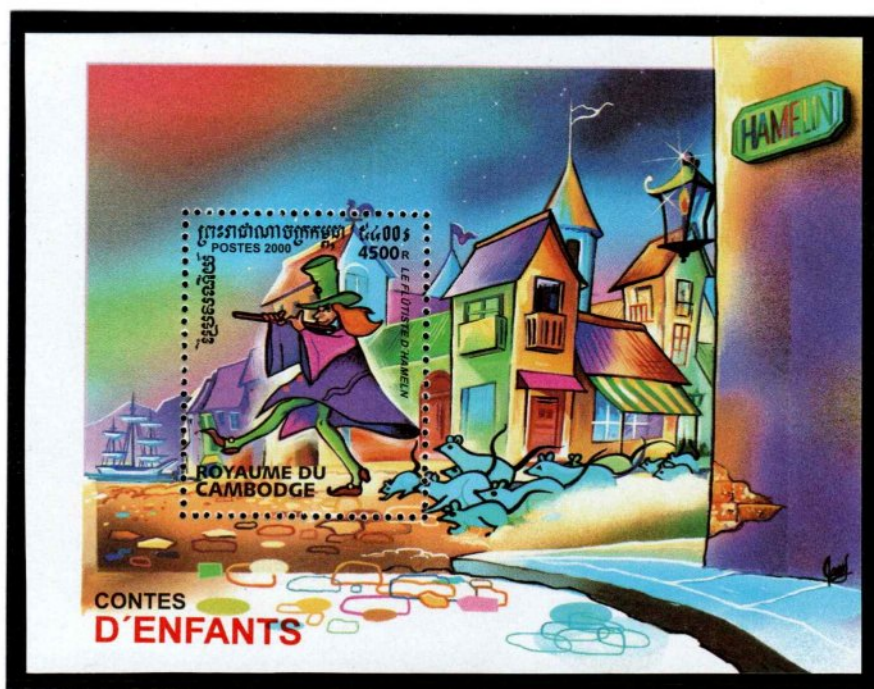
Great Britain 2012  
Roald Dahl's children's stories  
(set of 6)  
68p – James and the giant peach

Printing: Lithography by Cartor  
Security Print  
Designer: Magpie Studio  
Perforation: 14 × 14

#### 4.5 Legends

A legend features human actions, believed or perceived to have taken place in human history. It may demonstrate human values, and possess certain qualities that give the tale authenticity. It may include miracles. Legends may be transformed over time to keep them fresh and vital. Many legends operate within the realm of uncertainty, never being entirely believed by the participants, but also never being resolutely doubted.

The **Pied Piper of Hamelin** is the title character of a legend from the town of Hameln, Lower Saxony, Germany. The legend dates back to the Middle Ages. The earliest references describe a piper, dressed in multicoloured ("pied") clothing, who was a rat catcher hired by the town to lure rats away with his magic pipe. When the citizens refused to pay for this service as promised, he retaliated by using his instrument's magical power on their children, leading them away as he had the rats. This version of the story spread as folklore and has appeared in the writings of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the **Brothers Grimm**, and Robert Browning, among others. The phrase "pied piper" has become a metaphor for a person who attracts a following through charisma or false promises.



Cambodia 2000  
Children's stories minisheet

Printing: Offset lithography  
Perforation: comb 12¾

## 5. Poetry and verse

Poetry and verse are works in which word images are selected and expressed to create strong, often beautiful, impressions. These books are written at different reading levels that introduce readers to condensed language, and imagery, as well as creative expression and imaginative perceptions.

### Anda Pinkerfeld Amir

(26 June 1902–27 March 1981) was an Israeli poet and writer. Her most remembered work was written for children in rhyme and lyrics, and more serious writing helping children deal with loss. She wrote *Stars in the Bucket* in 1957.



Israel 1995  
1NIS – Anda Amir-Pinkerfeld –  
Stars in a Bucket

Printing: Offset lithography  
Designer: Ronen Goldberg  
Perforation: comb 14.

**Edward Lear** (12 May 1812–29 January 1888) was an English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet, who is known mostly for his literary nonsense in poetry and prose and especially his limericks, a form he popularised.

Great Britain 1988  
Death centenary of Edward Lear minisheet



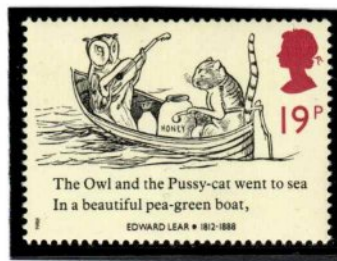
Printing: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: The Partners  
Perforation: 14% × 14%

*There was a Young Lady whose bonnet...* limerick appears in *A Book of Nonsense*, which is a whimsical collection of children's poetry created in the 19th century. This book is notably recognised for its playful use of nonsense verse and rhyme. Lear's work is emblematic of the Victorian era, showcasing an imaginative landscape where absurdity and humour reign. It engages young readers with its delightful characters and humorous situations, inviting them into a world of silliness. The book features a series of amusing limericks, each centred around eccentric characters, mainly "Old Men" and "Young Ladies," who find themselves in ludicrous and entertaining predicaments.

**Great Britain 1988**  
Death centenary of Edward Lear

Printing: Photogravure  
by Harrison & Sons Ltd.  
Designer: The Partners  
Perforation: 14¼ × 14¼

*The Owl and the Pussy-Cat* is a nonsense poem, first published in 1870. It features four anthropomorphic animals – an owl, a cat, a pig, and a turkey – and tells the story of the love between the title characters who sail off to marry in the land "where the Bong-tree grows". Lear wrote the poem for a three-year-old girl, Janet Symonds.



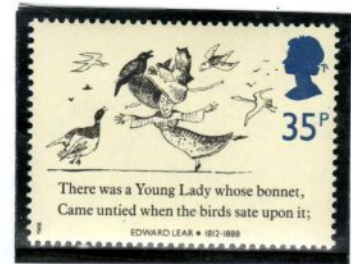
19 p – The Owl and the Pussy-cat



27p – Edward Lear as a Bird' (self-portrait)



32p – Cat (from alphabet book)



35p – 'There was a young lady whose bonnet ...' (limerick)

*Nonsense Alphabets* was published in 1849. From the mid-1840s onwards, Edward Lear made illustrated nonsense alphabets (also called "picture alphabets") as gifts for children of his acquaintance. Unfortunately, it is not known the name of the child or children for whom this alphabet was created.

**6. In conclusion**

A good book latches onto a child and won't let go. Their pages are treasured, passed across generations, stories shared among families as imaginations fire and children's faces glow with possibility. You never forget your favourite children's book. One of the best things about literature is that it allows us to bond with characters we love and can relate to. These characters take us on adventures and can make us laugh, think, cry and teach us important lessons.

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PUNDANG 463-600  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

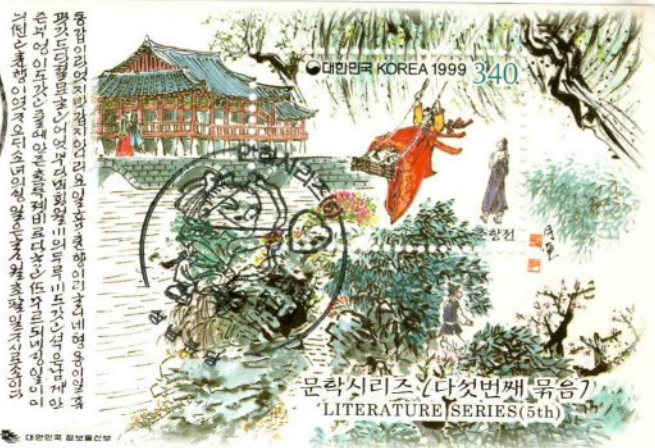


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Recorded delivery

South Korea 1999  
5th Literature Series souvenir sheet: The story of Ch'unhayng

Printing: Offset lithography  
Perforation: 13¼ × 13