

A Tribute to Children's Books

The light falls across the page. You've found a place of your own, some time to yourself and you'd prefer not to be disturbed, for the story has come alive. It speaks to you. You live with and feel for the people in the book. You see the places, hear the rustling of the leaves and the pounding of the waterfall. And all of this has come to life inside you through words and illustrations in a book. What a gift!

Through all ages and in all cultures, we have used stories both as entertainment and in search of knowledge, to strengthen our ties with others—both those who are like us and those who are unlike us—and not least in order to understand our own existence.

Children's books are often the first contact we have with literature and art, and they make a powerful impression. Doubtless you recall one or the other of the first books you read. Do you still remember having the feeling of time and space having ceased to exist?

We know today that reading develops the brain. It takes us to a new level of abstraction. Our children's future will test their ability to solve problems and conflicts, to think in new ways and understand people and cultures.

The Swedish Academy for Children's Books is an association with no political or religious affiliation that seeks to enable children to have access to powerful and enriching reading experiences.

In this exhibition the Swedish Academy for Children's Books has collected 17 reasons for children's books and 17 illustrations by Swedish illustrators.



Stina Wirsén

**Books can make us laugh and cry.
They can comfort us and show us
new possibilities.**

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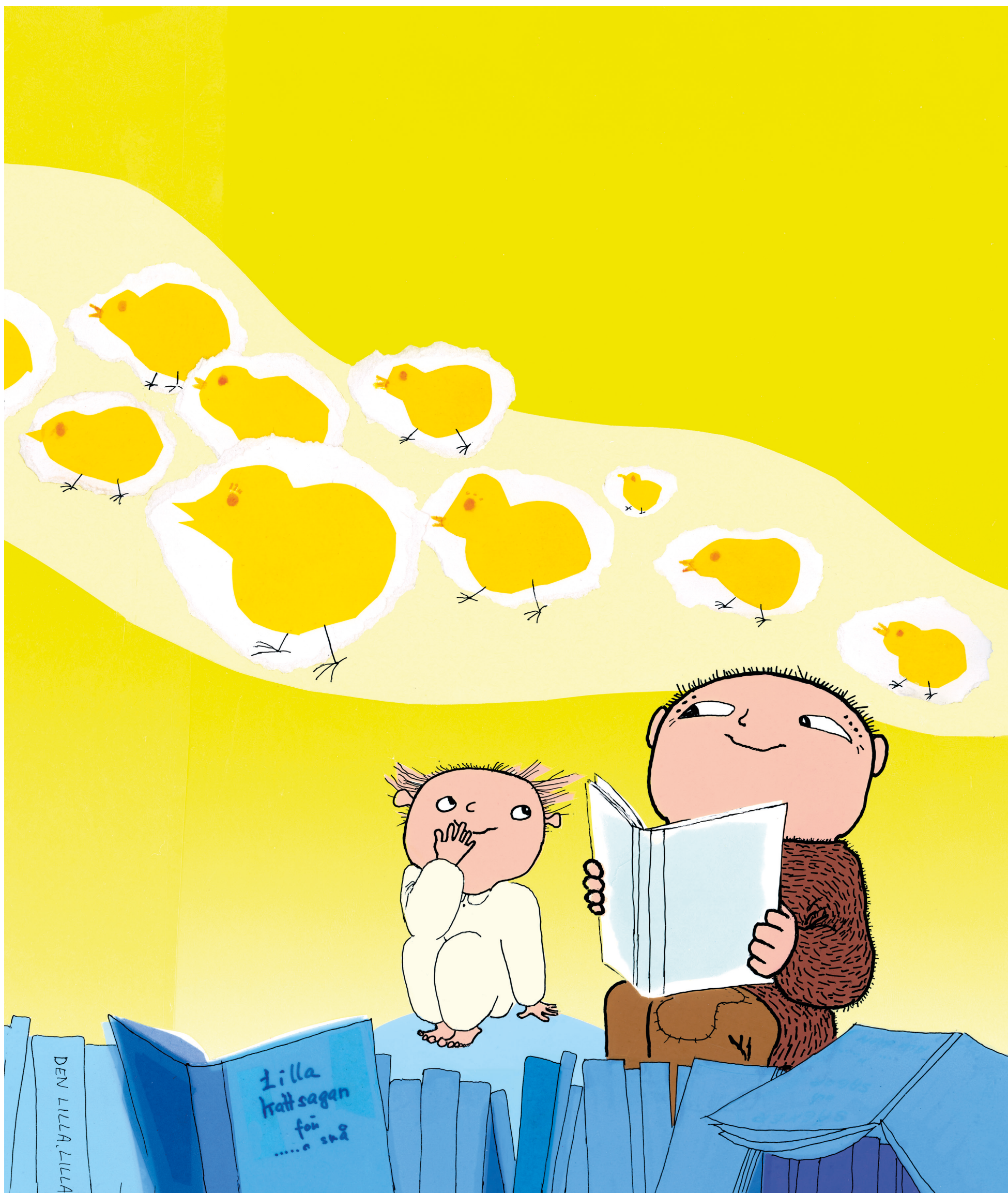


Per Gustavsson

**Books help us develop our language
and our vocabulary.**

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Gunilla Bergström

**Books fire our imagination and
train us in finding inner images.**

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Ann Forslind

**Books can ask fresh questions that arouse our
interest and cause us to reflect further.**

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Johan Unenge

**Books give us concepts to think with.
They broaden our consciousness
and our world.**

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Lena Anderson

**Books give us knowledge about nature,
technology and history, and about other
countries and other ways of life.**

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Pija Lindenbaum

**Books enable us to become someone else.
They develop our ability to empathise
and to feel compassion.**

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Gunna Grähs

Books make us reflect on what's right
or wrong, good or bad.

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Sara Lundberg

**Books can explain reality and help us
understand how things are connected.**

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Cecilia Torudd

**Books can show us that most things can
be seen from different points of view.**

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Sara Gimbergsson

**Books boost our self-confidence
when we realise that others think
and feel as we do.**

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Jens Ahlbom

**Books help us understand that we are
both similar and dissimilar.**

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Anna Bengtsson

Books offer company when we're lonely.



Pernilla Stalfelt

**Books are part of our cultural heritage.
They give us shared reading experiences
and common frames of reference.**

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Sven Nordqvist

**Books that are read aloud bring
children and adults together.**

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Barbro Lindgren

Children's books give us access to different
artistic forms such as illustration, photography,
poetry and drama.

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Emma Virke

**Children's books represent our first
contact with literature—an unending
world that lasts all our lives.**

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