

## Dear Children,

We hope that these 8 short, illustrated stories, which we call Tiny Books, will help you experience the joy of reading and learn more about the diverse world around you and the many different people who live there. For all of us to be able to talk with one another, it's very important to see the world through someone else's eyes, to walk in their shoes. If you have questions after reading these tiny books, please share them with the adults who are closest to you. These tiny books were created by 10 writers and illustrators from Lithuania, Estonia, France, and Germany, who all share a love for creative work, children's literature, and a desire to share novel and original stories with you.

## Dear adults,

Nobel laureate in literature Olga Tokarczuk has said that “only literature is capable of letting us go deep into the life of another being, understand their reasons, share their emotions, and to experience their fate.” These words inspired us to create a project that has produced 8 tiny books by European authors, exploring subjects such as human rights, interpersonal relations, and self-awareness. We invite you to read these tiny books with children ages 6 to 10 and, after reading them, to discuss the story you've read and the living bond you've experienced, to help children reflect on their own feelings and those of others. You'll be assisted in this endeavour by questions prepared by child psychologists participating in this project, and a children's literature specialist who has also prepared some advice about how to use these tiny books to nurture your children's creativity.

## Dear children's literature creators and professionals,

In 2021, the first Tiny Books' edition was created as a collaboration between creative people from the Baltic countries. In 2022 the project received the “Petite Pen Prize” from the Catalan Writers' Association, which recognizes contributions to the creation of diverse and open minded literature for children and young adults. In 2023, a new edition of small books was created, with creators not only from Estonia and Lithuania, but also from France and Germany. As many as 10 artists of differing styles, approaches, and character have created short, original, illustrated stories for young individuals – future citizens of the world – growing up in today's reality. These stories touch on different subjects related to human rights: equality, cultural diversity, physical differences, and living in freedom. This collection also serves as a way for these creators to present themselves and a rich sample of their work. We invite you to explore this glimpse into children's literature from Estonia, Lithuania, France, and Germany, to enjoy these wonderful works, and to build a connection with the authors of these tiny books.



### Project team “Tiny Books – Big Stories”:

Markus Köcher, Ulla Saar, Justinas Vancevičius, Ulla Kihva, Eglė Baliutavičiūtė, dr. Monika Skerytė-Kazlauskienė, Auksė Bruverienė.

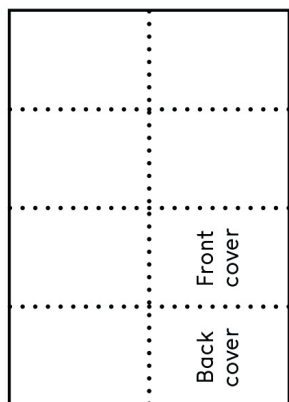
Texts and Illustrations: © Tiny book authors

Translations: © Tiny book authors, Peter Xirogiannis

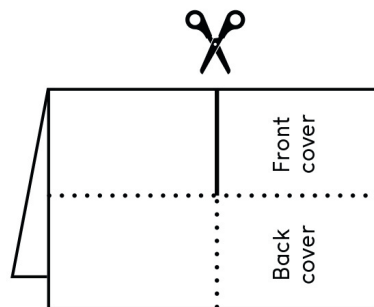
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## Tiny book creation guide:

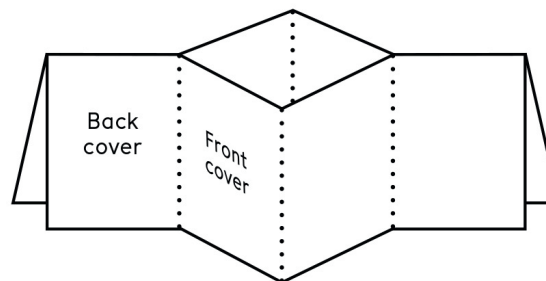
You'll find a detailed short film about how to make a tiny book at [tinybooks.eu](http://tinybooks.eu)



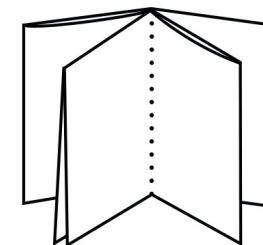
1.



2.



3.



4.



# The power of short stories

Tiny books may be small, but they contain so many interesting things, wonderful adventures and such wisdom! In their smallness, these books will hardly be intimidating to any child, and they just might help them discover the joy of reading.

Tiny books are miniature picture books. And picture books are special because they combine a tale of words with a story told in images. Together, text and pictures can create a wonderful story which they might not be able to convey separately. This is called synergy. Or, put more simply:  $1+1=3$ . And it's not just about literature – it's also like paying a visit to a tiny art gallery. Pick up a tiny book and read, explore and discuss!

Tiny books can be used in kindergartens, schools, or at home, to engage children with books, develop storytelling, story creation and drawing skills; promote empathy, expand knowledge about the world and encourage visual literacy, critical thinking, imagination, creativity, and, of course, a variety of other competencies.

Once you've read the tiny books, invite children to retell the story, discuss its characters and the emotions they experienced, and take a careful look at all the illustrations and what they seek to tell us.

Due to their brevity, tiny books are particularly useful for teaching the basics of story creation, i.e., narrative structure, the elements of a plot, and how they're arranged. Like all stories, tiny books have an introduction, a conflict, a culmination, a resolution, and an epilogue. Discuss this with the children and explain to them when action speeds up and slows down and allow them to create their own stories. After they do so, help the children think about which story elements are worth writing down and which might be conveyed in a picture. Perhaps a tiny book could be created with no words at all? And with older children, you might explore a story in a more creative way: Perhaps you can leave out some parts of the story or shift them around? Once you've decided how your story will look, put it all down on a sheet of paper with a tiny book layout. Remember that all books have a front cover, showing the title and the author's name, and a back cover, which usually has a brief description of what the book is about. Of course, one tiny book can be created by several children working together or with an adult.

We wish you an unforgettable journey as you read these tiny books and as you create your own stories!

Eglė Baliutavičiūtė  
Children's Literature Specialist



# How to discuss diversity with a child

The best things often seem ordinary, nonsignificant, as usually they are very simple. The well-known truth, that we all are different, is also very simple. That seems so obvious, we can understand it just by looking at our physical differences. It seems that we all have one nose, two eyes, but if we look closer, we can see big differences in these noses and eyes.

We can easily see that we differ from the outside, but we also differ from inside. Yes, we all have one heart and usually two kidneys, we all want to be loved, to feel happiness, but there are also people with their heart on the right side of their body, or people who have only one kidney. It seems that we understand love in different ways and that different things make us happy.

So, is it obvious, that we are different? But why is it that sometimes, when we talk about deeply important things, we take for granted that everything should be only as we see it, and not as others may see it? We are used to the zoo as a place to watch animals, but do we consider how these animals feel there? Wouldn't it be nice to have a teacher who could show us that even rocks can sing if we listen properly? Would it be fun if important people behaved like the rest of us?

When we think of others our brain tends to sort people. Usually we sort them according to one trait and then we assign other traits to the first one. Black people are good basketball players, women care a lot, and old people cannot understand progress. This ability is convenient,

but it has its limitations. One time or another we will meet someone who behaves differently than we thought they would. It might not only be uncomfortable for us, but also, we might hurt other people's feelings or lose a possible relationship.

So, it is important to know people as they are, with all their traits and differences. Only then we can fully understand, make true connections and enjoy our differences. Understanding of others is the true path to nurturing tolerance, understanding diversity, and accepting differences. Questions might help us – if we ask, how different people see the world, understand themselves and others, what they can achieve and what is difficult for them, what kind of help they would prefer, or how they can inspire others.

We can also get to know others through fiction as it gives us the opportunity to experience, to walk in another person's shoes, get to know their inner world or to know the world of totally different species, like ants, noses, aliens, vampires, which also can behave in unexpected ways and give us some understanding about being and behaving differently.

Tiny books with their short stories, can help us talk about how we are all different, what it means to have physical differences, different ways of thinking, and different life experiences.

Monika Skerytė-Kazlauskienė. 2023





## Jurga Vilė / LITHUANIA

Jurga Vilė was born in Vilnius in 1977. She studied French philology at Vilnius University and audiovisual arts at the Sorbonne-Nouvelle University in Paris. Vilė has worked as an assistant director on film sets, as a coordinator at film festivals and as a correspondent for various cultural media. She currently works as a freelance translator, organizes educational programs for children and runs various creative projects.

Her first book „Sibiro Haiku“ was published in 2017. This was followed by five more books for children and adults: „Factory of Tenderness“ (lit. „Švelnumo fabrikėlis“), „Chameleon’s Dreams“ (lit. „Chameleono sapnai“), „Pulpas and his green leg“ (lit. „Pulpas ir jo žalia koja“), „Fallen from the moon. A Dream of Oskaras Milašius and other birds“ (lit. „Nukritę iš Mėnulio. Sapnas apie Oskarą Milašių ir kitus paukščius“) and the audio book “A Black Hand” (lit. “Juoda ranka”).



## Cécile Pruvot / FRANCE

Cécile Pruvot is an illustrator. As an enthusiastic amateur musician, she is particularly interested in combining music and illustration during concerts.

To this end, she has developed an illustrated concert format. Her works have been performed at the Vibre! festival, at the Cité de la Musique in Paris, at the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, at the International Music Festival of Besançon FrancheComté, at the Salle Poirel in Nancy and at the Cité de la musique et de la danse in Soissons.

<https://www.cecilepruvot.com/>



These authors created the tiny book

### Spit Spot

#### Questions to discuss with children:

1. If at school they were to let you learn anything in the world, what would you learn?
2. If we knew how to listen and look, what would we gain?
3. Why should one learn how to listen and look?
4. What do you think, are you good at hearing and seeing what others usually don't hear or see? Is this possible?



## Kairi Look / ESTONIA

Kairi Look is an Estonian writer. She grew up in Estonia, but has been commuting between Tallinn and Amsterdam, her second home, for years.

Inspired by life, her children's books are contemporary, dynamic and cheerful; characterized by breathtaking imagination, unusual characters, playfulness and witty humor. They celebrate childhood and put children on a pedestal - because what do adults know?

These stories put the world in view and try to make it a better place for us all. In addition to writing, Kairi translates Dutch into Estonian.

She loves reading, dancing, swimming and, last but not least, squirrels.



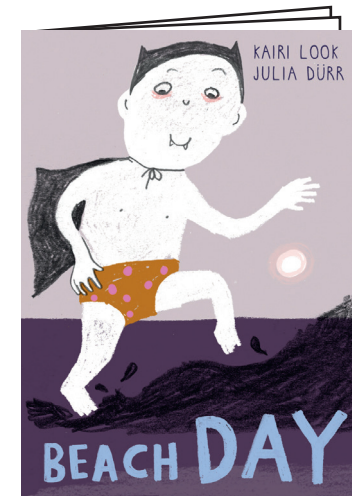
## Julia Dürr / GERMANY

Julia Dürr studied illustration in Münster and Brussels. During her studies she published her first two picture books, "Meer Sehen" and "Im Dunkeln".

She has received awards for her work from the Stiftung Buchkunst and the Akademie für Kinder- und Jugendliteratur and received the Austrian Prize for Children's and Youth Literature.

Her search for shapes and colors and places by the water has taken her through several cities. Today she lives and works as an illustrator in Berlin and in Lower Lusatia.

[www.juliaduerr.net](http://www.juliaduerr.net)



These authors created the tiny book

### Beach day

1. Was your idea ever rejected at first, and then accepted in a different way?
2. Why might it be useful to think twice before rejecting someone's ideas?
3. Do you think if someone is different, that they can look at problems from a different angle?



## Ayşe Bosse / GERMANY

Ayşe Bosse, born 1976 in Frankfurt am Main, is an author and trained grief counselor. She lives most of the year in Hamburg, but loves to travel, especially to her father's home country, Turkey. Her books on grief counseling for children and young people have been widely acclaimed and translated into several languages.

For her first novel "Pembo - half and half makes you twice as happy!" she was nominated for the German Youth Literature Prize 2021, among others.



## Reda Tomingas / ESTONIA

Reda Tomingas is a Lithuanian illustrator and animated film director.

She lives in Tallinn, Estonia. Reda mainly illustrates books for children as well as adults and takes on editorial and advertising commissions in various countries. She has illustrated almost 30 books and book covers. In her work she is particularly interested in the following themes: animals, botany, portraits and femininity. The latter becomes clear in Reda's animated short films "Po" (Engl. "Underneath", 2010) and "Kaltè" (Engl. "Guilt", 2013).

Her drawings focus on particularly funny animal shapes, where colors and textures take center stage.

<http://animalsindresses.com/>  
[https://www.instagram.com/animals\\_in\\_dresses/](https://www.instagram.com/animals_in_dresses/)



These authors created the tiny book

### Don't know it, like it!

1. Why do you think one ant was reluctant to go to Berlin?
2. What helped her to change her mind?
3. Does it happen to you that you do not want something when you do not know anything about it? What do you do then?





## Édouard Signolet / FRANCE

Edouard Signolet is an author, director and actor. He writes and directs for theater and opera, publishes plays and music books for children and works for major French institutions such as the Comédie Française, the Paris Philharmonie and Radio France. He also applies his talents as an author and director to symphonic performances for the great Parisian orchestras. For several years, he has also directed a touring opera with performances that combine his three passions - writing, theater and opera.

<https://www.facebook.com/edouard.signolet>

<https://www.laclefdeschants.com/>



## Anne Pikkov / ESTONIA

Anne Pikkov (born 1974) is an illustrator, graphic and book designer. She completed her graphic design studies at the Estonian Academy of Arts. Anne illustrates books and articles for various magazines. For her work she has received numerous awards in Estonian book design and illustration competitions. Her art is ornamental, laconic, spiced with humor and expressive.

“I love to send my works to exhibitions, which sometimes makes them travel very far and bring back messages from strangers. Then you realize that these visual messages build bridges and help to emphasize the need to recognize the similarities rather than the differences between cultures.”

<https://www.instagram.com/cyanotiger/>

<https://elk.ee/en/childrens-literature/illustrators/anne-pikkov-2/>



These authors created the tiny book

### Alien

1. Why do you think it might be good to have everything be the same?
2. Why might it be boring? Which would you prefer – if everything was the same as you, or different?
3. Where would you feel better? What does diversity give to us?







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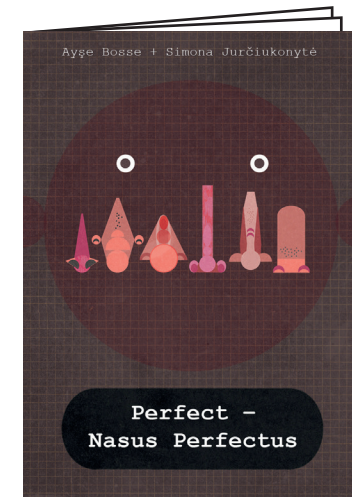
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## Simona Jurčiukonytė / LITHUANIA

Simona Jurčiukonytė was born in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1994. She currently lives in Vilnius. She graduated from Vilnius Art Academy with a bachelor's and master's degree in graphic design and continued her education as an illustrator and graphic designer abroad. Simona is a children's book illustrator and also works as an art teacher in kindergartens. Simona has been combining the creative and educational fields in her work for almost 10 years. Working with children allows her to get to know young readers and stay close to topics relevant to children.

Simona has illustrated two books, she takes part in exhibitions and designs exercise books together with colleagues. Her artistic practice focuses primarily on color and texture.



These authors created the tiny book

### **Perfect – *Nasus Perfectus***

1. What does it mean to be perfect?
2. Do perfect people exist?
3. Is it important to seek perfection? Why?
4. Where would you like to reach perfection?





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These authors created the tiny book

### Little dust from the piano

1. Why did the cleaning lady say „it is just dust“?
2. Did you ever feel that you are too small, invisible or insignificant?
3. Look around, what else could keep you company if you ever feel lonely?



## Anti Saar / ESTONIA

Anti Saar is an author, translator and hobby engineer. He lives in a red house in Tartu. Right next to it is a green house. When he writes, it is mainly for children. But his latest book is for adults. When he translates, it's mainly philosophy. His latest translation is volume 2 of Marcel Proust's great novel "In Search of Lost Time". When he tinkers, it's mainly with mechanical machines. But recently he built a three-story wooden hut. When there is time left Anti plays with his children.

<https://elk.ee/en/childrens-literature/writers/anti-saar-2/>

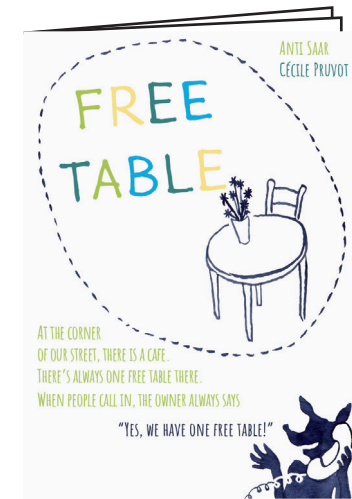


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These authors created the tiny book

### Free table

1. What do you think: did the owner of the cafe do the right thing keeping the table free just for one person?
2. Do you have some important stuff that you keep for important occasions?
3. What would you do if you were this important person?
4. What do you do to make new friends?





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These authors created the tiny book

### Revolution!

1. What do you think about animals in the zoo, are they happy there or not?
2. How it is for you - easy or difficult to look at the world from another person's or animal's perspective?
3. What do we gain when we try to feel what others feel?
4. What does freedom mean to you?

