

Nukits 2015

The Estonian Children's Literature Centre magazine



Published since 1995
Supported by the Cultural Endowment
of Estonia

Front cover: Catherine Zarip's illustration
for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
by L. Carroll from the book *Estonian,
Grade 3. Part 2* (Avita, 2008)

Back cover: Anne Linnamägi's illustration
"Off With the Heads!" for *Alice's
Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Car-
roll

CONTENTS

**"Kalevipoeg" On Children's Reading
Tables: 130 Years Since the Publish-
ing of the First "Kalevipoeg" for
Children (Part I).** Jaanika Palm, MA,
researcher of children's literature at the *Estonian
Children's Literature Centre*. The *Estonian*
national epic *Kalevipoeg* (1861) com-
posed by Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald
is a hefty work in archaic alliterative verse.
Since 1886, a large number of adapta-
tions have been published for children.

1

Is There Life in the Countryside? Krista
Kumberg, bibliographer and literary critic.
In contemporary Estonian children's lit-
erature, village life is often described as
an idyllic trip to an open-air museum.
It's nice to vacation and play fun games
in the countryside, but there's no prop-
er life there because of the absence of
everyday comforts, shops, post offices,
schools, and other children.

8

**The Contemporary Youth Novel as
a Fairy Tale.** Reeli Reinas, MA, *child-
ren's author and folklorist*. The author
approaches the subject of youth novels
(both translations and originals) pub-
lished in Estonia from the perspective
of fairy-tale studies, comparing the two
genres' main characters, the time and
setting of their plots, the goals of the
characters and heroes, their supernatural
powers, and their conclusions.

14

**Youth Between Ordinary Life and
Fantasy. Observations on 21st-Centu-**

ry Finnish Youth Literature. Päivi
Heikkilä-Halttunen, PhD, *researcher of
children's and youth literature*. Issues im-
portant to young people are being ad-
dressed ever more boldly in realist Finn-
ish youth novels. The fantasy genre is
taking inspiration from Finnish folklore
and mythology, boys' books take notes
from computer games, and both dysto-
pias and the not-far-off future have their
own place in the field.

20

**Estonian Children's Literature Events
in 2015.**

24

**Magazines in Time: Täbeke's 55th
and Pioneer's 75th Anniversaries.** Oli-
via Saar, *children's writer and children's jour-
nalist*. The editorial secretary responsible
for children's magazine *Pioneer* (1940–
1995) and young-children's magazine
Täbeke (1960–), which grew out of the
former, recalls the brightest moments
of her nearly forty years of editorial work.

30

**Ammunition on the Battlefield: On
War-Themed Children's Books.** Mare
Müürsepp, PhD, *children's literature critic
and lecturer, teacher at the Pirita Economics
Gymnasium*. The article addresses at length
the picture-book *The War That Changed
Rondo* by Ukrainian authors Romana
Romanyshyn and Andriy Lesiv. The
fairy-tale work won the BolognaRaga-
zzi Award 2015 in the "New Horizons"
category.

33

**"Pedagogical Censorship" in Latvian
Children's and Youth Literature.** Ilze
Stikāne, PhD, *Professor at the University
of Latvia, researcher of children's literature*.
Over the last few years, the Latvian pub-
lic and officials have attempted to inter-
fere in the composing of school text-
books with the desire to ban a number
of literary texts.

37

**Näpsäkäävät and Konkamuori – A
Language and Its Culture Foreign to
Estonian Children.** Elo Lammi, *Pasila
Library, Helsinki*. An Estonian-born li-
brarian organises drama fairy-tale ses-

sions for both Finnish and Estonian
children at the Pasila Library in Helsinki.

40

**The Tallinn Central Library Read-
ing Programme "Let's Read "Our
Own Book"."** Sille Ross, *Director of the
Pääsküla Library*. Students in grades 1–9
at Tallinn schools participate in a read-
ing competition. Over the course of the
academic year, the students complete
feedback forms on books they have read
and in the spring, they compile the
forms into their "Own Book". The class
with the most pages in their book wins
the competition.

43

The Colourful Lady of Haapsalu.
Krista Kumberg – 2014 Estonian Chil-
dren's Librarian of the Year.

45

**Worcester Congress for Researchers
of Children's Literature.** The 22nd
International Research Society for Chil-
dren's Literature (IRSCL) Congress "Cre-
ating Childhoods" was held in Worces-
ter, UK from 8–12 August 2015. *Estonian*
researchers Mari Niitra and Jaanika
Palm also spoke at the congress.

47

Award Season in Full Swing. The Es-
tonia Section of IBBY, 2015.

49

**Red-Letter Days of Children's Literature
2015.**

50

Address:
Pikk 73
10133 Tallinn
Phone +372 6 177 234
elk@elk.ee
www.elk.ee

Editors:
Anu Kehman
Ülle Väljataga
Layout: Vivika Kalt

Printer: Ilotruk OÜ
ISSN 1406-4170