

Event suggestions connecting to Where children grow

Introduction

‘Good literature gives the child a place in the world and the world a place in the child,’ Astrid Lindgren said. With the exhibition *Where children grow*, the Swedish Institute, in collaboration with the Swedish Institute for Children’s Books, is aiming to establish a dialogue on the role and international distribution of children’s literature.

As the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states, children have the right to information and the right to take part both in public and cultural life. We want to emphasise the importance of reading and creativity, and also make clear the pleasure and benefits to be derived from literature.

Can you introduce any topic in children’s books? Many Swedish books for young readers deal with subjects that adults may consider too advanced for children. Access to literature that all children are included in and feel a part of is an important issue for Sweden. To this end, international exchange is vital. Ensuring that books are translated and reach readers in different parts of the world is to further our awareness and understanding of one another. This is particularly important in the case of young readers. The topics suggested below can be combined. Names of experts to invite can be obtained from the Swedish Institute. We encourage direct contact with the local publishers of Swedish literature in the local language.

Suggested topics

Reading promotion is an important topic in Sweden and elsewhere and it is often easy to find common challenges and interest in this field. Experts to invite from Sweden: reading promotion experts, Swedish Reading Ambassador, representative from the Swedish Arts Council, authors who are interested in this topic. Target group: decision makers, educators, librarians, media, publishers.

Gender equality in literature and education. Access to literature that is not gender stereotyped and access to education with awareness on the topic is an important part of integrating gender equality in children’s lives. Experts to invite from Sweden: academics in children’s literature, academics in education, authors and illustrators. A local partner could, for example, be an institution of education. Target group: decision makers, educators, librarians, media, publishers.

Promotion of Swedish literature abroad. Highlight famous authors like Astrid Lindgren to draw attention to the tradition of and the importance of good children’s literature. Invite an expert on Astrid Lindgren and/or a Swedish author or illustrator to talk or have a workshop. Partners of importance are local publishers and translators. Experts to invite from Sweden: academics in children’s literature, authors and illustrators. Target group: decision makers, educators, librarians, media, publishers.

Inspirational translators’ meeting about translating Swedish literature. Experts to invite from Sweden: authors. Target group: translators

Activities for children

After the embassy event, the exhibition can continue to tour; for example, libraries and readings of Swedish children’s literature can be arranged by the local libraries. Workshops for children with an author or illustrator from Sweden could be arranged if part of an event above.

Colouring book, Pippi Longstocking, PDF for print: <http://www.astridlindgren.se/lekstugan/pyssla>. This can be used by libraries in conjunction with a literature event for children.