IVAN ANDRUSIAK
2020 H.C. Andersen Award Nominee from Ukraine
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Ivan Myhailovych Andrusiak is a poet, author of books for children, critic and translator. He was born on 28th of December 1968, in village Verbovets, Kosiv region of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. He graduated from V.S. Stefanyk Ivano-Frankivsk State Pedagogical Institute, Ukrainian Academy of State Management and the University of North London. He is a member of Ukrainian National Union of Writers, Association of Ukrainian Writers and Ukrainian Centre of PEN-club. I. Andrusiak is the main editor of the publishing house “Fontan Kazok” (specialized in books for children) since May 2014.
STATEMENT

Nataliia Marchenko, PhD Ukrainian scientist and writer/ critic

The main field of work of Ivan Andrusiak is literature for children. His fairy tale “Stefa i ii Chakalka” (it grew into trilogy “Kaban dykyi hvist velkyi" (2009), “Chakalka i Chupakabra” (2016)) was gender-marked. These and his forthcoming literary fairytales (one of the most of its kind – “Tretii Snih”) seamlessly grow from traditional for Ukrainian and European literature for children “forest stories” (when the world of animals is shown as a human society) to reshaping the characters of native folklore.

At the start of his professional life Ivan Andrusiak claimed himself as a modern, smart, very “family” author, who can imagine new stories, create bright characters and speak with the readers using modern language.

The same dominance for the realistic prose by Ivan Andrusiak is shown in the first modern Ukrainian literature psychological story for preschoolers “Pinhvinik” (about inclusion of a small child to nursery school) and the series of books about problems of growing up process of the youth (tales “Kredens” and “Alkhimik”, “Zavadnannia z fizuku” and “8 Dniv iz zhuttia Burunduka”; united in a book „28 dniv iz Zhuttia Burunduka”).

As well as dynamic, exciting plots and bright, colourful characters the prose by I. Andrusiak stands out with whole-hearted humour that is understandable for a child, his language of stories is modern and at the same time rich, with a power to develop speaking skills of the reader and harmonious unity of postmodern game and deep understanding of the canon in the text.

It is always a cognitive and instructive story, filled with knowledge and conclusions that a child can make independently.

Selections of poetry for children by I. Andrusiak “Miake i pukhnaste” (soft and fluffy), “Chupakabra ta inshi zaichyky” (“Chupakabra and other rabbits”), “Liakatsiia” are based on non-association game, outstand with new images and versificative creativity. The poet invites the reader to the artistic act, where the wealth of language can revive everything read in own feelings of a reader and at the same time feel the taste of the game with meanings hidden in the form, colour and sound. Joking and lyric, funny and joyful his poems awake emotions and encourage reflections that are easy to remember and affect with unexpected discoveries. But the most important that his poems are paternal, laced with reliable, responsible love of a man and open-hearted interest in the children’s world.

Ivan Andrusiak experiments with genres and the forms. The story-game “Khto boitsia Zaichykiv” (Who is afraid of little rabbits?) are tales and game, witty stories and songs, actually, it is an interactive book for family reading with pictures. “Zaichykova knuzhechka” (Little book for little rabbits) consists of rhymed fairy tales made in a style of canon for Ukrainian literature “Yasochchyna knyha” by N. Zabila. And rhymed fairy tale “Mahazyn nevydymyh rechei” (“Shop of invisible things” is Ukrainian-English bilingual book. Even classical rhymed ABC alphabets are creative and unexpected like “Zviriacha abetka” (Animal’s ABC) and “Abetka-prozyvalka” (Naming ABC).

In general I. Andrusiak shows deep knowledge of age psychology and
awareness of cultural and ethical devotion. The writer analyzes his own life through understanding childhood and shares his feelings of happy fatherhood for the reader.

Poems by I. Andrusiak were translated into twelve languages and published in Poland, Canada, Russia, Slovakia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Armenia and other countries. His books give aesthetic enjoyment and prompts for a young reader as well as for an adult. These are real books for reading in family circle.

APPRECIATIVE ESSAY

Books with lyrics by Ivan Andrusiak do not risk to be lost in a rich and various world of the modern poetry for children. When you take his book "Miake i puhnaste" (soft and fluffy), "Zviriacha abetka" (Animal’s ABC) or "Zaichykova knuzhechka" (Little book for little rabbits) you can’t leave them in a bookstore: you feel that you should take these books and read them to your child, because they are filled not with poems of small time, but texts that will last for a long time, because the poems are written not only for children. People of different ages are satisfied with the texts. Two year-old children enjoy the rhymes and game form of poems, four year-olds will make friends with funny heroes of books, and young school children will appreciate the humour of the author who writes everything with winking eye. Parents will also like his soft satire. Poems by Andrusiak are wonderful amusement for children and their parents, his texts are quickly made into quotations and become a part of everyday family talkings and games. Written by Antonina Yashchuk
AWARDS AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS

1995 the first prize of literary award of the publishing house “Smoloskyp”;
1997 Literary award “Blahovist” for 1996;
2002 Laureate of Borys Necherda Award for the book “Povernennia v Halapahos” (Return to Galapagos);
2007 Award of the magazine “Kurier Kryvbasu”;
2009 Laureate of the contest of proza for children “Zolotyi leleka - 2008” with the book “Khto boitsia Zaichykov” (Who is afraid of little rabbits?);
2010 International Literary Award “Karpatska Korona” («Corona Carpatica»);
2013 was included to the rating of the best books of fiction and publicistic literature by National Union of Writers in Ukraine “White ravens 2013” list with the book “8 Dniv iz zhuttia Burunduka” (eight days of Chipmunk’s nickname life);
2015 was included to ratings: Top-10 editions of 2014 for children and teens by “Reitynh krytyka” and top-6 the best Ukrainian books for children of 2014 by the portal «BARABOOKA»;
2016 Diploma of literary-art Leonid Cherevatenko prize for a book “Stefa i ii Chakalka”;
2016 Laureate of the first Korniychukovskyi prize in nomination “Poetry for children” for a selection of poems “Liakatsiia”;
2018 winner of the contest «BARABOOKA» with the book “Liakatsiia” (portal of Ukrainian books for children);
2019 Lesia Ukrainka Award in nomination “Fiction for children and youth”.  


TEN IMPORTANT TITLES


2. Chupakabra ta inshi Zaichyky : virshi : dlia simein. Chyt. – Kyiv : Fontan kazok, 2017 (Chupakabra and other rabbits : poems: for reading in family circle);

3. Miake i pukhnaste : poezia – Kyiv : Hrani-T, 2010. (Soft and fluffy);

4. Sorokopudy, abo iak Liza i Stefa vtekly z domu : divchacha povist – Lviv : Vyd-vo Staroho Leva, 2011 (Sorokopudy or as Liza and Stefa escape from home : story for girls);


6. Pinhvinik : povist – Hrani-T, 2013. – 82p. : il. (Little penguin);


8. Kaban dykyi – khvist velykyi… : povist – Kyiv : Hrani-T, 2010. (Boar is wild – tail is big);


TRANSLATED EDITIONS

English translations

Armenian translations


Polish translations


Russian translations


Czech translations

LIST OF FIVE BOOKS SUBMITTED TO THE JURY

1. “Mahazyn Nevydymyk Rechei = The Shop of Invisible Things”
2. “28 Dniv iz Zhyttia Burunduka” (28 Days of Chipmuck’s Life)
3. “Stefa i yii Chakalka” ((Stefa (name of a girl) and her Chakalka (name of imaginary spirit that scares children, has bad temper )
4. “Tretii Snih” (“The Third Snow”)
5. “Liakatsiia” (collection of poems for children)
COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHY


Andrusiak I. Chipmunk in Love and Other Robber Stories / I. Andrusiak ; ill.


28 Dniv iz Zhyttia Burunduka
(28 Days of Chipmuck’s Life. *Chipmunk is a nickname of a boy *)

“Ivan Andrusiak for children and about children” by Nina Holovchenko.

Firstly we want to specify that books by I. Andrusiak are easy to read. The author puts every word on the right place and while reading you do not stumble with inversions, huge amount of synonyms or difficult syntactic constructions. It is very important, when the reading “goes” from the first line. It is especially important for children.

However, this “unbearable lightness of being” in the words does not interfere writing about serious topics, that should be discussed with children at a time and confidentially. In the book “28 Days...” I. Andrusiak tries to depict among other themes, the concept of “love”, as this topic is very important during maturing. And sometimes good book forms the image of love.

For now it is very simple to deform the concept of love seeing cynicism and brutality of life, standards of showbiz, primitive TV series or fashion magazines. In families or schools it is not common to speak about in our society. And the feeling of I. Andrusiak to write about it for children is appropriate to a social need.

These are some extracts from the text:
«...My father tells that a person is as its language and I love her language...

When you just touch her elbow – then you receive a great shock! ...
...When she went along me she touched me a little bit with her elbow – I felt the same as in early childhood when I was got zapped. This time was nicer, of course; however it was very strong, acute feeling. I remember that I fell, but this time I did not move, everything happened inside. The power of strike felt not a body, but a soul...

«...Chipmunk (nickname of a boy)?! Wow... Why are you so pale? Do you feel bad? Maybe, I’ll call for a doctor?..»
...I worked up the nerve and went to a counter.
«He is weird...» – Ivaniuk suspiciously glanced at me» (c. 162-163).

With this example from the text one can see that I. Andrusiak not only describes the inner state of a boy in love, who tries to identify his feelings/emotions, but adds opinion of other person (classmate Ivaniuk).
To the objective view of depicting love one important detail is added. I. Andrusiak talks about love also in an aspect of a living body. He depicts the feeling of falling in love with erotic dreams and “tampers” during dialogue of teenagers with a term “wet dream”. They are logic for such age and condition, but are they for a fiction? It is hard to answer.

It goes without saying that the culture of body and information about sex should be explained from childhood. How to do it delicately, dosing and carefully or frankly and desperately in fiction or specialized/non-fiction literature stays as a question. But the search for a right tone, judging by the book by I. Andrusiak, the search for the right tone has started.

Ukrainian writer I. Andrusiak adds erotic touch in fiction text about multi-pronged world of a school student. Swedish writer Anna Höglund, translated and published in Ukraine, puts this topic in the centre of books. Her fiction book “To be me” tells about 13 year-old girl teenager, who starts recognizing herself as a woman and reflects the questions of sex.

It is understandable, that the main fact for analyzing this topic for children is a general level of culture of the society. Ukrainians, British or Swedish will use different ways for solving it. However, the fact that Ukrainian writers feel responsible, do not bypass important topics and try to spell out some aspects of sex in their stories for children in educational way tell about development of writing process. During 1990s this topic was presented only in brutal texts, and during Soviet times, as it is well-known, there was no sex. Even more it stays for literature for children.

Books by I. Andrusiak are educational because they tell about linear equations or different formulas, or give an opportunity to get to know how differently hurts moth and borer.

Ivan Andrusiak is also ironical writer. Any situation in text for children is tragical or sarcastic, but ironic. Humour and self-irony help to understand the text easily and learn some thruth of life.

Ivan Andrusiak uses foreign terms and professional vocabulary, typic Ukrainian words, dialects and so he enriches vocabulary of young readers. That is how the understanding of life is forming: life as diverse as language.

I. Andrusiak is a modern author who feels the time. Language and life of the character of Ivan Bondaruk (Bondaruk - Burunduk (Chipmunk) are modern. He is a city child of supermarkets, snickers, PC and social networks. There are also granny, village, antique in his life. All these things add balance, fulfillment and some feeling of sequence of life, but they are not nostalgic.

Ivan Andrusiak is a psychologist as he shows the relationships between parents and what teenagers understand about parents’ feelings.

Ivan Andrusiak is a master of depicting characters. Every hero of his texts has own face and character.

As a result, Ivan Andrusiak fills the world of the modern Ukrainian child with quality reading.

Stefa i Chakalka

“Knowledge and skill acquired by hard work will be of great help in difficult times” is always told by adults to children. However, children have never liked visiting school. They rather like to fool about, play and look for adventures. Ivan Andrusiak wrote his trilogy “Stefa i Chakalka” about such easy-going and funny children. First two stories are already well-known among children. The first book “Stefa I yii Chakalka” was published in 2007, and the second “Kaban dykyi khvist velykyi” in 2009. Stories for children were so popular, that readers asked for continuation. In 2016 the third one “Chakalka i Chupakabra” was published; however the ending of the story shows that it is not the last one. As the first two books of the trilogy were already sold, the author decided to publish it in one book as a trilogy. It is convenient for those who have not read the first two books. Other way a child, who

Mahazyn Nevydymykh Rechei = The Shop of Invisible Things

A book-game is the format of a bright and unordinary book “Mahazyn nevydymykh rechei” of the publishing house “Fontan kazok”. It includes joking poetic text and harmonious translation by Tamara Zhelobyshtka. But the main zest of the book is collages-illustrations by Oksana Lypka. In a family no one can bring over little girl Lialia to get dressed. So she walks naked, with naked little belly, naked little heels and even naked little butt and when relatives remark her appearance she goes to the shop to buy clothes. The only problem is that clothes are invisible and the result is like in a fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen “The Emperor’s New Clothes”. However, girl’s mother is very inventive one and can teach Lialia-little naked girl and revive her to love visible things.

has got only the third book, should search for the first two, because without them it is hard to understand the last one.

In the first book one of the main characters is Chakalka – an evil creature who kidnapped children and raised little Chakaliata. In the second and third books she has already been an ordinary school teacher, who everyone loves. How this change happened a child can understand only after reading all three books.

Ivan Andrusiak writes ingenious and wittily. It is very important for a literature for children, because while reading serious books children turn away, go from the bed, go to have fun. A kid will never listen to what parents read to him if it is dull. When you read the book by Andrusiak to the child, it will laugh from the first page.

There are real and imaginary characters in three books. Andrusiak made characters out of his children, their friends, and themselves. They are ordinary people, who think and behave as we do. The small children are glad to know that characters of the book walk the same streets or can even study in the same school. And about imaginary characters... they are well known: Babay, Kateryna II, Petro I etc. However, for now the reader will know that Babay is not so scary and looks like Lenin. And who is afraid of Lenin? Children look into the face of their fears and are not afraid of imagined creatures. They are not scarier than monuments that make ugly the central squares of our cities.

The books are written with accessible language. The author knows that children are very developed. It is not so easy to find a golden mean and his stories are not simple or complicated for understanding. At the same time “Stefa i Chakalka” is educational. Once there was a cartoon named “Chomuchka” or something like that. In contrast to all that nonsense cartoons that are shown to children nowadays, in that one cartoon parents told their cartoon children what centrifugal force, photosynthesis or gravity are. The trilogy by Andrusiak is a published story-“sister” of such a good cartoon.

For example, do you know that poachers catch hares? They put a strong steel string in a forest. One side is banded to a bush and a poor animal will be caught.

“Everything was made so that a noose will tighten the neck” – says Chakalka.

And do you know that wild boars live in a forest and how they mark the territory? «At first, this oak tree is a boarder sign. It marks the territory where a herd of wild boars lives and eats. The territory is very big – tens of square kilometres. And there are such marks on every path around. The herd approaches the tree and every bear beginning with the youngest till the main bear, the leader, must rub it up and leave its smell. That is how for everyone who visits the forest this oak tree is like a message board with a text: here lives a herd of wild boars, so go away” – explains a wise teacher to children.

If the leader boar of the other herd is bigger than the leader of the herd, who possesses the territory, then they can fight, and maybe the herds will leave their territory and go away to find a new one. The trilogy by Andrusiak is educational, makes you think about serios things, and answers important questions. For example, why some teachers are loved and some are not? Why do they listen to one and feel bored with another one.

“Everything depends on a teacher who loves children or not” – tells Chakalka to herself looking in the dark.

...“So maybe out of such students are made Chakalkas, and children would better not even approach her – reflects girl Stefa in the first part of trilogy, when Chakalka was angry. The writer underlines that children who study hard and listen to their parents then are good students, and then they will be teachers or just smart and intelligent people.
Everyone can be re-educated (of course, except Babay who was sent to a neighbour country) and no one spell an end to adult or a child.

“Everyone has something good and evil. And good will always be bigger than evil if a person wants” – tells an author with one of the characters.

The only thing that is confusing in the trilogy is that all animals speak – even toy animals. In that age children already know that animals do not speak. Only underschool children believe that the toys come alive when people sleep, and their dog, like Alf from the story, puts a peanut butter on bread. But taking into account that a writer uses a form of a dream for the story we can excuse it.

Trilogy by Ivan Andrusiak is significant for a modern literature for children, because it is funny, sometimes tragic and dramatic. Everyone can find adventures, real friendship, fun and tears of despair and remorse. But the main thing is that good triumphs over evil.

Yuliia Yulina

https://vsiknygy.net.ua/shcho_pochytaty/review/44632/

Liakatsia is a collection of poetry for children. The collection got the first prize in nomination “Poetry for Children” of Korniichkovsky prize in 2016. A number of poems are included to a new school program for studying in the 3rd grade. They don’t need to study them by heart, but poems are memorized by themselves. And united with wonderful illustrations of young artist Liliia Kurtseba the collection is even better.

What “Liakasiiia” tells about and what the author emphasized in this poem? When acacia began to bloom the animals did not understand the beauty of it. Only uncle elephant surmised to take a smell of the tree and then animals were not afraid of the blossom. Why cutlet is called “cutlet”? It is because it tantalizes a cat! The red romp will get it anywhere: from the table, the fridge, or, as it is within us, from a frying pan!

There are a lot of interesting poems that make you laugh. But also make you reflect. One of them is “About ability to read”. Rhino reads a book badly, not every word, not every page or sometimes opens the last page and gets to know the ending. Maybe because it is hard to skim through pages with a huge horn or he lacks patience. The rhino decides that he can’t read. Maybe that is really so, because most children and even adults read only as for a process not remembering the words, the plot, without making conclusions. One more instructive poem is “Dvisty ihor.” Because most children think that tablets are for games. But one can use it with benefit. That kind of tablet describes Ivan Andrusiak. One can save a lot of books, interesting exercises, interesting information, and in last case the right answers for tests. Octopus is a sea poet. But he lost the inspiration. The sea friends gave them a piece of advice to go to jellyfish as the best musefish. But she was very surprised to see the octopus! Jellyfish convinces the poet that to write with legs is the
Tretii snih (the third snow) - the writer shows non childish problems of selfidentity — national, linguistic, cultural and the problems of children with disabilities and social integration. I. Andrusiak told about specialities “This fairy tale has traditional for the genre characters – hedgehog, rabbit, wolf, bearetc. Of course, they live in a forest and do what they should do, visit forest school – this is one transparent reference to old tradition by V. Nestaiko – tells I. Andrusiak. – Some of them are strong, some are intelligent and they all confront – this is as well as one of traditional fairytale plots. And of couse there is one queer character. Basing on these traditions I tried to talk with children about our modern times, about problems that are sometimes acute and painful, that children notice in life, and from time to time they should react. For example, the problem of rude power, aggression, injustice; the problem or native language in its interaction with foreign; the problem of identification... all of them are serious and adult problems should be openly discussed with children – of course, it should be interesting and understandable for them.” As for a genre “Tretii snih”is a fairy tale with detective intrigue. The author shows language identification of a human. For example, some heroes speak surzhyk, the main hero tries to name his country, but can’t do it. The problems of children with disabilities we “read” with the example of the story of bear-female Olena: during attack of humans on bear’s lair she loses eye-sight, and forest friends invent how to teach her to read, as without grammar you can’t live in a forest.” “I tried to write the fairytale so that it would be interesting for a child, it should identify with characters, laughed and cried when the main character feels fear or pain. Those tears don’t have anything bad in them; vice versa they are very useful and important during growth. At the same time I tried to make this story easy, not pedagogical, but serious and as deep discussion with a child about important things for it. Source: Barabooka
A book about humanity of animals – review on “Tretii snih”
I do not like reading a lot. However stories by Ivan Andrusiak are easy to read, they are readable. You start reading and don’t notice that you dive into a world of the author.
“Tretii snih” is written as a forest detective story and it catches the reader. You read and read, trying to get to know how it ends. The heroes of the story are animals who live in a forest. All of them have their own life. Their life is not easy, filled with difficult circumstances. This is a story about friendship and interesting adventures, after them every forest inhabitant overvalues the outlook and takes a wisdom and humanity test (if one can use such a word about animals).
Hedgehog named Petro, the main hero, is an ordinary kind boy. He lives in a blackthorn, visits school, likes to study and he is a big dreamer. The only problem is that he is small and weak and bears hurt him without purpose because they are bigger and they are the strongest in the forest. While reading you sympathize the kind hedgehog.
And what about catbird Marko! This courageous and smart innovator! What an interesting ideas come to his head. However, his last experiment with honey of Olena could cost him life, if faithful friend hedgehog Petro did not help him. For the first sight, he is weak and small Petro, but he has brave and faithful heart.
Every character is very interesting and unique. Someone is kind, someone is not really. However, even not very good characters are attractive for readers. As for example, there is Wolf Meletii. I think that the author did it on purpose that the
reader understood, that there is no 100 percent evil characters. It seems he gives them a chance to be better. I want to mention one more time the language of an author. “Tretii snih” is written in modern and alive language. Some of the characters speak surzhyk as it is in life. The language of an author is very simple and vivid. He names the words tasty or not tasty. I would say that “Tretii snih” is written with very tasty language! As for me, this fairy tale forest resembles our Ukraine. There are wild animals, who do what they want, lots of other animals are bullied by them and they can’t fight back, because those animals are the strongest. They are not very smart, not kind, not wise, but they have power. However, for their power there is an opposition. Pity, that this power is bigger and not kind. But I really liked how the animals tried to rescue little bears, how the whole forest cared for a bear Olena. I think it is right. Sometimes when you feel hurt and revenged it is very important to stay a human and don’t act as wild animals. I liked “Tretii snih” very much. This story made me think about a lot of actual and important things. The main thing that I understood from the story is that we should fight against unjustice and do not become executor.
INTERVIEW FOR BBC UKRAINE

Ivan Andrusiak: if my book had a happy ending no one would trust
Once he used to be a “very-very grown-up and very-very serious poet”, but now he writes books for children and reads mostly literature for children.
Ivan Andrusiak, an author of the story for children “Tretii snih” (the third snow), told about his acheless transformation into the writer for children, about need of “brains” in stories for children and why his new story has no happy end, but only gives a hope for it.
Ivan Andrusiak: This book, above all, is how to be yourself. It is very important for everyone to be aware of who you are and what you are. And it is important to speak with a child about it how to gain success, fulfill the potential based on own identity, but not following someone else’s.
Hedgehog Petro lives in a forest. He is similar to all hedgehogs – he likes eating mushrooms, sometimes struggles with asps, hunts mice, goes to school...Of course he visits school as he wants to be smart!
It goes without saying that he wants to be stronger, because in the forest the power wins in some situations, but little hedgehog with his little paws and little teeth can only dream about it. That is why he should find another way to secure himself and assert himself. But once bears come, some kind of forest “cool” guys who are very rude and know they won’t be punished. And then one scary beast comes, in reality the most cruel – a human...
So that is how the story begins. It seems that hedgehog has no chances, however, who knows how the story goes.
BBC Ukraine: Good characters of the story have Ukrainian names and speak Ukrainian, but negative (bears) have Russian names and speak surzhyk (refers to a range of mixed sociolects of Ukrainian and Russian languages used in certain regions of Ukraine. Pigeon language).
The story was written before the conflict on Donbas, adult reader can feel how it overlaps with nowadays in Ukraine and...
conflict with Russia. What would you tell parents who think that there is no place for politics in literature for children?

Ivan Andrusiak: “I want to tell it firstly that the story is not about politics. I don’t trust it and would never start such an important conversation on controversy. The story tells about identity – national, cultural, language – and politics takes from it, but not identity takes from politics. To speak with a child about identity is very important – and I wanted to make the conversation in natural and familiar way for a child in a form of fairy tale, where it will think with heroes, be worried together with them, feel everything deeply and more “human-like” than during school celebrations about “mova kalynova” (very common poem about beloved Ukrainian language).

If a child, following hedgehog Petro, starts tasting words then the conclusion will be the same as hero’s: “You know, one can taste the word even better than a candy. Because candies, no matter how many, early or later are over, but words never end. You can taste words all your life, every time choosing the better. You can choose the strangest words from exotic languages and chewing them in your mouth, enjoying their spicy or sharp, or rough, or sweet taste. However, the sweetest are always words of your native language, full with nice and nutritious life-giving juice...”

And about parallels with our situation, then you can and should make them. I strongly prefer reading in family circle and in lots of my books for children I try to include such things that not only attract but provoke the discussion in family circle some acute and sometimes mixed controversial things that happen in the world and in human’s soul. Literature should not explain everything and put “ready soup” into brain – it should lead to reflections, and literature for children is not an exception. However, for a child it should be given with fun, jokes and dynamic adventures. And. of course, it should have “brains”, because book without “brains” is like fast-food, that fills your stomach, but has no vitamins in it.

BBC Ukraine: The book ending is very sad. It is rare for literature for children. Why is it so?

Ivan Andrusiak: Because everything went to such an end of the story. I could not do anything with it – other ending would be artificial and readers would not trust me. In spite of it I should give a chance for bears, they should not die – and they didn’t. Of course, the situation for them is not sweet, but they will have a chance to get the freedom. As the story was published I got mails from my little readers, who did not ask, but claimed to tell what happened next. And Stefa, my youngest daughter, thanks her I started to write for children, wrote the detailed plan of rescuing the bears and claimed as well that I should use it for the next story. So don’t be afraid, everything will be alright: we will definitely overcome all challenges and become stronger, more kind and human – bears, hedgehogs, humans and Ukraine.

BBC Ukraine: How and when did you start writing for children? What encouraged you?

Ivan Andrusiak: I have already told this story for a lot of times. Stefa (daughter) even before her birth “woke up” some unconscious wonderful feelings and those feelings resulted in texts. For now Stefa is twelve years old and this is how long I try to write for children and I feel unbelievable happiness, when it is well done and little kids grow up with my books.

When I used to be very-very adult and very-very serious poet, I knew what success is among readers – but the feeling of this warm, real, sincere happiness that your texts are needed and someone laughs and cries with the heroes of your books came only with literature for children.

Journalist Oleh Karpiak
Eight Days of a Chipmunk’s Life
Author: Ivan Andrusiak
Illustrator: Hanna Osadko
Age Range: 8 and up, Contemporary Realistic Fiction, 72 pages, Size 180x210 mm

Ivan Chipman, known at school as Chipmunk, wants to be a hero. He strives to be the best in his class and even in the entire school. He wants to be able to do buck vaulting, to climb ropes, to always score goals in soccer, and to not be afraid of the principal... If he succeeds in all this, then maybe even that a teasing cute pie girl will pay attention to him.

This realistic story by Ivan Andrusiak reveals all the hazards of daily school life. It humorously portrays the complicated issues and concerns of growing up.
Chapter 1
Chapter one, where it becomes clear that it’s not as easy to score a goal as it seems

Let’s make everything I tell you our secret. And promise me – here and now, promise me right away that everything will stay between you and me, and promise that you won’t laugh.

But in general you can laugh yourself silly – to be honest, I can hardly keep myself from laughing out loud – but don’t mock me. Because, who likes to be mocked? There aren’t any students like that in our class. I guess, there are none in the entire school.

So I feel uncomfortable... Sometimes they mock me. To be honest, it happens quite often. Three times a week. As soon as gym class starts, there it goes: Chipmunk this, Chipmunk that... But do I look like a chipmunk? I’m Chipman! Ivas Chipman! See! I was named Ivas so as not to be confused with my father. My father is Ivan Chipman, and I’m Ivas. Convenient, isn’t it? It also sounds good.

But they call me Chipmunk instead.

Well, to be honest, I am a little bit on the plump side. My mother calls me jolly. But my father is also jolly – and so what? Nobody calls him chipmunk at work; everybody respectfully calls him Mr. Chipman. But me...

No, you don’t have to call me Mr. Chipman! Not yet. Let me graduate from school and college – and then you can call me that way. But for now call me Ivas, and that’s it.

Deal? Alright.

...So, where was I? Of course, about gym! The nastiest thing, let me tell you, is rope climbing. Running’s not so bad: I’ll finish last, but at least I’ll finish. Jumping is the same thing – you’re jumping into the sand, not into a pool or a ditch with crocodiles. If I’d jump into a ditch, that would be a disaster; otherwise I should survive.

But that damned rope is beyond my strength! I can pull myself up once or twice, but you also have to use your legs, and that is harder than the toughest math problems.

There is also the buck vault... Not the kind that horses or mules do. That’s even worse! Buck vaulting is a real pain for me! I could not do it even once – I’d clamber on it just up to my knees, and that’s it. Then I’d be climbing over it, and then they’d all start laughing...

It was Friday that day. We usually have gym last on Friday. Right after algebra where we had a test. And a very hard test, I have to say! Linear equations – that’s not fun. Even I’m sometimes stressed, but everybody else is totally shocked!

In fact, I don’t like algebra and geometry very much. I prefer languages and literature; though if you think about it, there’s nothing terrible about linear equations. The main thing is to sit down, think calmly, and connect everything together – and it will begin to solve itself, sometimes even becoming interesting.

But that’s what I think – all the others are shaking during their break. One’s digging in a textbook trying to memorize something at the last minute; another’s making crib sheets; the
most practical ones are trying to sit as close as possible to the best students, making it easier to cheat. There's Ivanik sitting behind me.

“When you’re ready to start writing, try to sit a little bit sideways, so I’ll be able to see your notebook from behind,” he says.

This is a well-established system; you just have to have good eyesight. If you’re going to sit next to someone in math class, you won’t be able to cheat because the teacher gives different tests to students who sit next to each other.

It’s not easy to cheat in math, since you have to understand the type of solution your classmate is using and plug in your own numbers. It’s also risky to sit up front, since you have to turn around to look at a notebook with correct answers, and the math teacher would quickly catch you. Sitting behind is right where you need to be; the main thing for me is not to block my notebook with my shoulders.

I didn’t even have time to reply to Ivanik when Goat appeared at the door.

“Students, your teacher is sick today. You’ll be on your own during your gym class. The boys can play soccer and the girls hopscotch, or whatever you like. Just make sure you are all at the stadium. I’ll be watching you through the window!

There you go – it turns out that even athletes sometimes get sick. Goat is our supervising teacher. They say her maiden name is Goatinck, that’s why they call her that way. Ivanik is scared of her, but not me. She’s strict, but doesn't treat you badly unless you screw up yourself. I'd rather be scared of Klochkova or as we call her Fish (that's what we nicknamed our
gym teacher because she has an advanced degree in swimming and has shoulders wider than the school principle), because she’s always nagging us to complete the gym requirements.

At that moment everyone, of course, shouted “Hurray!” but somewhat weakly, we still needed to make it to gym class.

I turned around to Ivanik and said, “I'll let you copy from me if you take me on your team.”

Ivanik is the best soccer player in our class and maybe in the whole school. He has no clue about algebra, but he can make incredible moves with the ball that will astonish you. Everybody wants to play on the same team with Ivanik, but he doesn’t pick everyone. Though this time he’s going to pick me. He has no choice.

“I don’t wanna be a goalkeeper,” I added.

You won't get any glory if you’re the goal keeper.

That’s how it works in soccer: The one who scores a goal is the hero. But a goalkeeper would never score a goal. The goalkeeper does just the opposite...

Ivanik looked at me with suspicion.

“All right,” he said. “You'll be a defender. On the right side. Just make sure that you put your notebook in a spot where I can see it.”

I will – that won't be hard...

...It's very hard to play without the ball.

Professional soccer players don’t always manage to do it, what about me?

Guys obviously don’t let me have the ball – I can’t control it with my feet. I have to win the ball
myself, that's why I'm a defender. But that's okay, I'll manage to do it...

I have to wait for my chance to show them what Ivas Chipman is worth! My chance will come, it will definitely come – it's a soccer game, everything is possible there!

The fact that I'm not a sports fan doesn't mean I'm not into sports. Especially soccer – is it possible not to like it? It's the same as in literature: only in literature you get excited by the way its written and in soccer – how smoothly the ball flies. Beauty is beauty everywhere – there's some even in algebra. Only in algebra you'd tire out before you get to it...

Well, you'll get tired in soccer too! I'm running this way and that way, but there's no chance.

I can't say I could do nothing during the game. To the contrary – I did better than usual. I was able to reach for the ball and kick it out from under a guy's foot on the other team twice. I kicked it somewhere – but at least I kicked it out, and that's good...

At the same time the game stretched on. The whole school came out to the yard for their break, and the boys from the other classes surrounded the field and started to cheer. Even some girls got interested. There's that cutie pie standing behind the other team's goal.

Here we go!

I'm not going to tell you about her. That's my personal business. No, don't even think about it! There's nothing interesting about it, it's just nasty and that's it. Don't you have this kind of girl in your class?

Better to talk about soccer!

The gym class ended, but we still can't just end the game. The score's 3:3 and nobody wants to go home without a victory. We got stuck, and that's the end!

Right at that moment my chance came.

I ran toward the other team's goal since I got tired of being a defender. Not because that girl was there – I just ran. Well, it was just happening that way, you know?

Anyway, I ran, and the other team's defenders let me through. Certainly if that were Ivanuk, then both defenders would be on him, but since it was me, they didn't pay much attention.

Their goalkeeper stayed to the far left, since he was kicking the ball, Ivanuk intercepted his kick! It happened so quickly that the goalkeeper didn't have enough time to get back to the goal...

Ivanuk looked around and saw me in the corner of his eye! He hesitated for a second: should he pass me the ball or not? I raised my hand like a real soccer player, showing him I was ready to receive the pass.

And Ivanuk passed it to me...

That was a PASS, I have to tell you! You haven't seen one like that in your life!

A beauty!

A perfect cupcake, and not just a pass!

Ideal, calculated to the millimeter...

If the Kyiv Dynamo team recruiters would be here or at least our gym
trainer Emilia would have seen that pass, then Ivanik wouldn’t be a student at our school anymore and wouldn’t be copying my solutions to linear equations. He’d be carried off to the Dynamo sports school in the arms of everyone...

So imagine the situation: the defenders are behind, the goalkeeper is on the far left, and I’m in the right corner, in the Oleg Gusev position, moving at the empty goal with the ball rolling right in my direction!

What do you think Ivanik would do in this situation? He’d easily stop the ball right in front of the goal, show off for a few moments – he had enough time for that since it would take two or maybe three seconds for the goalkeeper to come back, and then he would playfully roll the ball into the goal at the very last moment right in front of the goalkeeper’s nose. That is Ivanik – he can’t do it without mocking.

But me...
I decided to do it another way – to kick the ball as hard as I could, spectacularly and on the fly, so that only the goal net would shake.

No, not because that girl was standing there. I just decided to do it that way and that’s it...
And I kicked the ball on the fly...
And...
I don’t know how it happened...
In short, I missed the ball!

And the ball softly and gently rolled behind the line – I didn’t even touch it...
Well obviously all the boys started to run towards me and shout.
“Chipmunk! Get off the field!” They screamed.
And so I left the field without looking at anyone.
What else was I supposed to do?
Little Dolly loves to visit the Shop of Invisible Things. One can find the best invisible socks and dresses in the world over there... Suddenly, Dolly’s mother finds out about this amazing place and starts to cook... the invisible breakfast! Would Dolly and her mother be able to come to terms with those invisible things? This funny story-game by Ivan Andrusiak with colorful illustrations by Oksana Lypka would most certainly lift your mood!
Є собі — голівочок.
Устала зранку, зняла піжамку
— і ГОЛОПОПЕНКО.

There is BARE-BABY.
Wakes up in the morning,
takes off her pajamas
— and she is
a BARE-LITTLE-BOTTOM.
Каже мама: – Одягнися!
Каже тато: – Схаменися!
- Ги-ги! – каже сестричка.
А й байдуже. Їй і так добре.

Mommy says: “Get dressed!”
Daddy says: “Stop it!”
“He-he!” – Sister says.
But Dolly doesn’t care. She is ok this way.
Від а т їй наказали раз, і друге, і втретє.
Мама вже й сердиться.
– Якщо ви такі, – мовить, – то піду я в магазин невидимих речей!

They order her once, twice and thrice.
Mommy is angry already.
“If you act like this”, says,
“I am going to the Shop of Invisible Things then!”
А речей у тому магазині видимо-невидимо.
Усякі, та не однакі.
І такі, і сякі, та ще й такісінькі.
І дітей у тому магазині видимо-невидимо
– і всі ГОЛОПОПЕНКИ.
Котрі походять, а котрі й повзають.
Роздивляються, вибирають, то те, то се приміряють.

There are lots of things in the shop.
Different but not the same.
Of this sort, of that sort and of this and that sort.
There are very many kids in the shop
– and all of them are BARE-LITTLE-BOTTOMS.
Some are walking and others are crawling.
Watching, choosing, trying on this and that.
Вибрала й собі трусики. Одні в горошок, одні в смужечку, а треті, найкрасивіші – із ЗАЙЧИКОМ. Щоб зайвий раз не ходити.

Dolly chose a few panties for herself. One pair is in dots, one pair is in stripes, and the third pair – the nicest – with a HARE on them. In order to save her trip back.
Повертається додому рада-радісінька
– а дома все те саме.
Каже мама: – Одягнися!
Каже тато: – Схаменися!
– Ги-ги! – каже сестричка.
Кличе мама до сніданку – а тут ГОЛЯЧОК.
Бо трусиків найкрасивіших, із ЗАЙЧИКОМ, ніхто й не бачить...

She joyfully comes back home
– but everything is the same there.
Mommy says: “Get dressed!”
Daddy says: “Stop it!”
“He-he!” – Sister says.
Mommy calls for breakfast
– but here is the BARE-BABY.
Because nobody sees the nicest panties with a HARE on them...
– Якщо ви такі, – мовить Долли,
– то піду я ще раз у магазин невидимих речей!
Цього разу прийшла у відділ зі шкарпеточками.
А дітей у тому відділі видимо-невидимо
– і всі ГОЛОП’ЯТЕНКИ.
Котрі ходять, а котрі й повзають.
Роздивляються, вибирають,
шкарпеточки приміряють.

“If you act like this”, Dolly says,
"I am going to the Shop of Invisible Things!"
This time she goes to the socks department.
And there are lots of kids, and all of them
in the department
– are BARE-LITTLE-TOES.
Some are walking around
and others are crawling.
Watching, choosing,
trying on socks.
Вибрала й три пари.
Одні в горошок, одні в смужечку,
а треті, найкрасивіші – із ЗАЙЧИКОМ.
Щоб зайвий раз не ходити.
Приходить додому рада-радісінька
– а там уже сніданок у розпалі.
– ГОЛОП’ЯТЕНКУ,
– каже мама, – одягнися!
– ГОЛОП’ЯТЕНКУ,
– каже тато, – схаменися!
– Ги-ги! – каже сестричка.
А шкарпеточок найкрасивіших,
із ЗАЙЧИКОМ, ніхто й не бачить...

She joyfully comes home
– and the breakfast is in high gear.
“BARE-LITTLE-TOES”,
Mommy says, “Get dressed!”
“BARE-LITTLE-TOES”,
Daddy says, “Stop it!”
“He-he!” – Sister says.
Because nobody sees the nicest socks
with a HARE on them...
– Якщо ви такі, – мовить Лялі,
– то піду я ще раз у магазин невидимих речей!
Цього разу у відділі з плательками.
А дітей у тому відділі видимо-невидимо
– і всі ГОЛОПУЗЕНКИ.
Котрі ходять, а котрі й повзають.
Роздивляються, вибирають,
штанці й плателька приміряють.

“Если вы так себя ведете”, – говорит Ляля,
“Я снова поеду в магазин невидимых вещей!”
На этот раз она посетит отдел платьев.
В этом отделе все видимые-невидимые
– и все ГОЛОПУЗЕНКИ.
Они ходят, а некоторые ползут.
Вглядываются, выбирают,
присаживают штаны и платья.
Вибрала 

Доля вибрала їй аж три платтячка.
Одне в горошок, одне в смужечку,
а третє, найкрасивіше – із ЗАЙЧИКОМ.
Щоб зайвий раз не ходити.
Приходить додому рада-радісінька
– а всі вже й поснідали.
– ГОЛОПУЗЕНКУ,
– каже мама, – одягнися!
– ГОЛОПУЗЕНКУ,
– каже тато, – схаменися!
– Ги-ги! – каже сестричка.
А платтячка найкрасивішого,
із ЗАЙЧИКОМ, ніхто й не бачить...

She joyfully and comes home – but everyone is finished with the breakfast.
“BARE-LITTLE-BELLY”,
Mommy says, “Get dressed!”
“BARE-LITTLE-BELLY”,
Daddy says, “Stop it!”
“He-he!” – Sister says.
Because nobody sees the nicest dress with a HARE on it...
Ото мама зітхнула й каже:
– Що вже з тобою вдієш, щастя моє. Ходи так снідати.
й біжить до столу – і ГОЛОПОПЕНКО,
і ГОЛОП’ЯТЕНКО, і ГОЛОПУЗЕНКО.
На стільчик сідає і смакоти чекає.

Mommy sighs and says:
“What should I do with you, my sweety?
Come for breakfast like this.”
Dolly is running to the table – as a BARE-LITTLE-BOTTOM,
as BARE-LITTLE-TOES, as a BARE-LITTLE-BELLY.
She sits on the chair and waits for yummy food.
Подає мама тарілку.
– Ось тобі кашка манна, солодка й пахуча – ням-ням.
А тарілка й порожня – тільки ЗАЙЧИК на дні усміхається.
Подає блюдечко.
– Ось тобі сирна запіканка, солодка й пахуча – ням-ням.
А блюдечко й порожнє – тільки ЗАЙЧИК на дні усміхається.
Подає горнятко.
– Ось тобі молочко свіженьке, солодке й пахуче – ням-ням.
А горнятко й порожнє
– тільки ЗАЙЧИК на дні усміхається хитро-хитро.

Mommy serves a plate for Daily.
“Here is semolina, sweet and aromatic – yum-yum.”
But the plate is empty – only a HARE with a tricky smile
is on the bottom. She serves a saucer.
“Here is cheese casserole,
sweet and aromatic – yum-yum.”
But the saucer is empty
– only a HARE with a tricky smile
is on the bottom.
She serves a mug.
“Here is some fresh milk,
sweet and aromatic – yum-yum.”
But the mug is empty
– only a HARE
with a tricky smile
is on the bottom.
Вже мало не плаче.
Як же це так: солодке й пахуче – а не з'їси!
– То я, – каже мама,
– в магазин невидимих продуктів збігала.
Там усе таке смачне, таке корисне.
Їж, донечко!
– Е, ні, – здогадалася Аль, – я такої смакоти не хочу!
І миттю у свою кімнату – шасть.
Зняла невидимі трусики – і видимі вдягнула.
Найкрасивіші – і з зайчиком.
Ось уже й не голопопенко.

“Oh, no”, Dolly understood, “I don’t want this yummy food!”
She immediately dashed to her room.
Took off her invisible panties – and got into her visible ones.
The nicest… with a HARE on them.
And there is no BARE-LITTLE-BOTTOM.
Зняла невидимі шкарпеточки
– і видимі вдягнула.
Найкрасивіші – із ЗАЙЧИКОМ.
Ось уже не ГОЛОП’ЯТЕНКО.

She took off her invisible socks
– and got into her visible ones.
The nicest… with a HARE on them.
And there is no BARE-LITTLE-TOES.
Зняла невидиме платтячко
– і видиме вдягнула.
Найкрасивіше – із ЗАЙЧИКОМ.
Ось уже й не ГОЛОПУЗЕНКО.

She took off her invisible dress
– and got into her visible one.
The nicest… with a HARE on it.
And there is no BARE-LITTLE-BELLY.
А тепер і поснідати можна.
Кашка манна видима,
солодка й пахуча – ням-ням.
Сирна запіканка видима,
солодка й пахуча – ням-ням.
Молочко свіженьке видиме,
солодке й пахуче – ням-ням.
А коли все з’їси
– ЗАЙЧИК на дні усміхається.

Був невидимий – а тепер видно...

And now she can have her breakfast.
Semolina is visible,
sweet and aromatic – yum-yum.
Cheese casserole is visible,
sweet and aromatic – yum-yum.
Fresh milk is visible,
sweet and aromatic – yum-yum.
And when everything is eaten
the HARE on the bottom is smiling.

He was invisible and now he is visible...
А ТЕПЕР ПОГРАЙМОСЬ В «ОДЯГНИ ЛЯЛЮ»!

Зроби так:

− Виріж ножицями з книжки дві наступні сторінки по пунктирній лінії, як показано на малюнку. Попроси маму або тата допомогти тобі зробити це акуратно, щоб не нашкодити книжці.

− Так само акуратно виріж ножицями з першої сторінки зображення Лялі, а з другої – усі трусики, шкарпеточки й платтячка разом із клапанами.

− Одягни Лялю в трусики, шкарпеточки й платтячко одного тону, фіксуючи їх клапанами.

− І так переодягай Лялю в новеньке щоразу, коли їй захочеться.

Гарної тобі гри!

NOW LET'S PLAY «DRESS UP DOLLY»!

Do the following:

− According to a picture, carefully cut-out (with scissors) the next two pages of a book the dashed lines. Ask Mom or Dad to help you cut it out very carefully in order to keep the book unharmed.

− In the same careful way cut-out (with scissors) the image of Dolly from the first page, and all panties, socks and dresses with flaps from the second page.

− Dress up Dolly with panties, socks and dresses the same tone by fixing them with flaps.

− Change Dolly’s clothes each time when you’d like to do it.

Have a good game!
Літературно-художнє видання

Іван Андрусяк
Художник Оксана Липка

Магазин невидимих речей
The Shop of Invisible Things

Українською та англійською мовами
Для сімейного читання

Англійською мовою переклала Тамара Желобицька

Літературний редактор українського тексту Тетяна Лановець
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