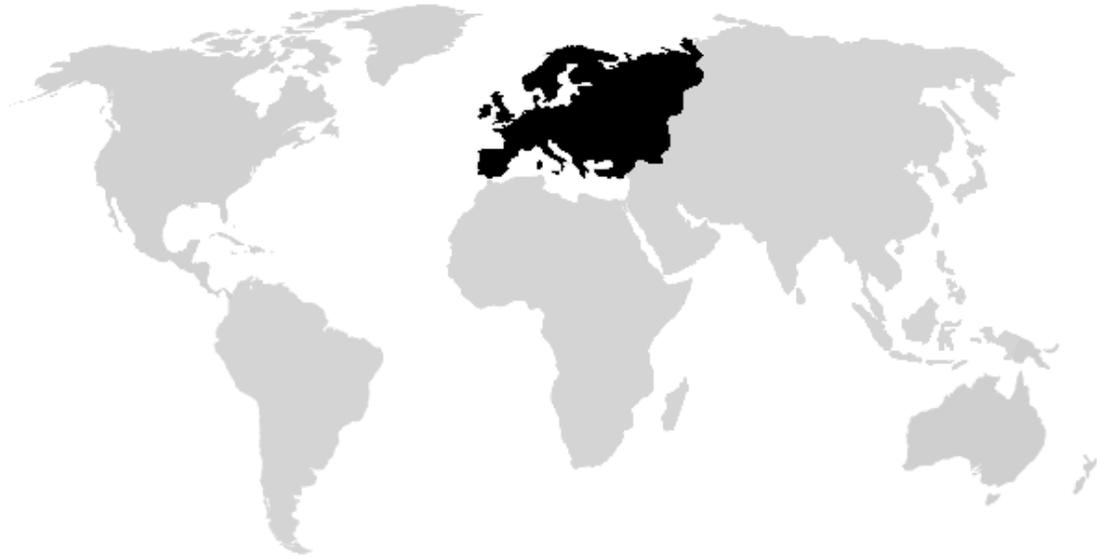


**Growing Up Around the World:
Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States**



Growing Up in Europe

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Halilbegovich, Nadja. *My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary*. Kids Can, 2006.
Gr. 4-7. Diary entries written from a child's perspective during the war from 1992-1995.
The author lived in Sarajevo until immigrating to the United States in 1995 at the age of 15.

Czech Republic

Machalek, Jan. *Eva's Summer Vacation*. Illus. Futech Interactive Products, 1999.
PreS-Gr. 3. Eva travels with her father from her hometown of Prague to the country village of Hluk to participate in her aunt's wedding and spend the summer with her cousins. The colorful illustrations portray Eva's journey, the village, and native costumes worn at the wedding. Two pages at the back provide a brief geographical introduction to the Czech Republic and a short vocabulary list. Jan Machalek was born and educated in the Czech Republic.

Řihošek, Jacob. *The Czech Republic (The Changing Face of – series)*. Raintree, 2005.

Gr. 4-7. The modern nation of the Czech Republic emerges through photographs, interviews with a variety of citizens, and comparisons to the recent past. Jacob Řihošek was born in the Czech Republic and now lives in the United Kingdom.

Denmark

Bredsdorff, Bodil. *Crow-Girl: The Children of Crow Cove*. Trans. by Faith Ingwersen. Farrar, 2004.

Gr. 4-7. A young orphan, left on her own by the death of her grandmother, follows the crows to form new and different relationships. This simple but beautifully written Batchelder honor winner transcends place to become universal in its themes of home, family, and community. Bodil Bredsdorff is a popular Danish children's author.

England

Ahlberg, Allan and Raymond Briggs. *The Adventures of Bert*. Illus. by Raymond Briggs. Farrar, 2001.

K-Gr.2. Bert, a big, clumsy and friendly man-child has many silly adventures with his family: Mrs. Bert and Baby Bert. This book is followed by a sequel, *A Bit More Bert*. Allen Ahlberg was born and lives in England.

Almond, David. *Kit's Wilderness*. Delacorte, 2000.

Gr. 6-8. Through his grandfather's stories and playing the game of "death" with friends, thirteen-year-old Christopher Watson explores the real and mystical past of his new hometown, Stoneygate, an old English mining village. David Almond was born and lives in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

Banks, Lynne Reid. *Alice-by-Accident*. HarperCollins, 2000.

Gr. 4-6. In two separate journals, one private and one for her teacher to read at school, ten-year-old Alice records the conflicts between her single mother and paternal grandmother as well as their daily lives in London. Lynne Reid Banks was born in London and lives in Dorset.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. *Millions*. HarperCollins, 2004.

Gr. 4-7. Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, who live in the English Midlands, find a quarter of a million pounds that will shortly become worthless when Britain starts using the Euro. In the midst of their dilemma about what to do about the money, Damian struggles with his personal grief and sees visions of saints. Frank Cottrell Boyce lives in Liverpool.

Dhami, Narinder. *Bindi Babes*. Delacorte, 2004.

Gr. 5-7. Geena, Amber and Jazz, three Indian sisters living in England with their grief-stricken, widowed father, cope with the loss their mother and plot to marry off their interfering auntie, who has come from India to care for them. This book is first in a series. Narinder Dhami was born in Wolverhampton and lives in Cambridge.

King-Smith, Dick. *Sophie's Snail*. Candlewick, 1999.

Gr. 2-4. Four-year-old Sophie, who lives on a farm in the British countryside, decides to become a lady farmer when she grows up and starts collecting funds to pay for her own farm. This book is first in the *Sophie Books* series. Dick King-Smith was born in Gloucestershire and lives near Keynsham, England.

McKay, Hilary. *Saffy's Angel*. McElderry/Simon & Schuster, 2002.

Gr. 4-7. Saffron, who lives with her eccentric family in a cluttered cottage outside London, is shocked to discover that she is adopted and that her grandfather has left her something in his will, something very special that she and her family eventually find in Wales. The author was born and lives in England.

Naidoo, Beverley. *The Other Side of Truth*. HarperCollins, 2001.

Gr. 4-7. Sade, who is twelve, and her brother Femi, who is ten, are taken from Nigeria and abandoned by a woman to was paid to smuggle them into England. Once in England, they are taken in by social services and must find a way to reunite with their journalist father, who is detained and seeking political asylum. Beverley Naidoo has lived in England since 1965.

Weatherly, Lee. *Child X*. David Fickling, 2002.

Gr. 6-8. Juliet Cheney is caught in the middle as her parents' nasty divorce, the first one like this in England's history, is played out by the media. Lee Weatherly lives in Surrey.

Wilson, Jacqueline. *The Illustrated Mum*. Delacorte, 2005.

Gr. 5-8. Ten-year-old Dolphin finds herself alone and responsible for her mother, Marigold, when Marigold's bipolar behavior veers out of control. Jacqueline Wilson was born in Sussex and lives in South Yorkshire.

France

Morgenstern, Susie. *A Book of Coupons*. Illus. by Serge Block. Trans. by Gill Rosner. Viking, 2001.

Gr. 3-7. Wrinkly old Monsieur Noel is not your typical teacher. The students at the Marie Curie School realize this when he hands each of them a book of coupons for misbehaving and having fun on the first day of school. His other gifts include books, penmanship, spelling, and everything that life has taught him. Susie Morgenstern has lived in the south of France for thirty years.

Germany

Buchholz, Quint. *Collector of Moments*. Trans. by Peter F. Neumeyer. Farrar, 1999.

Gr. 3-6. When a young boy discovers his friend and neighbor, Max the artist, has left on a journey, the paintings Max leaves behind challenge him to view his world in a whole new way. Born in Stolberg, Germany, Quint Bucholz now lives near Munich.

Pin, Isabel, *When I Grow Up, I Will Win the Nobel Peace Prize*. Trans. by Nancy Seitz Farrar, 2006.

Gr. K-3. A young boy lists the great aspirations that he has for life after he grows up – such as creating peace in the world and protecting the environment – while the illustrations contrast his current and quite contrary activities. At the book’s end, he appears to have an epiphany: “There’s so much to do. I ought to get started right away.”

Richter, Jutta, *The Summer of the Pike*. Trans. by Anna Brailovsky. Illus. by Quint Buchholz. Milkweed Editions, 2006.

Gr. 4-6. Anna lives on an estate and has always been fast friends with the two other children there, Daniel and Lucas. When the boys’ mother becomes seriously ill, they all struggle with how to handle the situation and what it means about the existence of God. Jutta Richter lives in Germany.

Greece

Rousaki, Maria. *Unique Monique*. Illus. by Polina Papanikolaou. Kane / Miller, 2003.

Gr. K-2. Monique tries various ways to jazz up her boring school uniform, all of which are subsequently forbidden by the school administrators, until she comes to school with a big smile and bright red braces. Maria Rousaki and Polina Papanikolaou both live in Greece

Ireland

Colfer, Eoin. *The Legend of Spud Murphy*. Miramax, 2004.

Gr. 4-6. Disruptive Will and Marty Woodman, ordered to spend summer vacation at the library doing something “educational,” meet their match in the feisty librarian, the dreaded Spud Murphy. Eoin Colfer was born and lives in Wexford, Ireland.

Parkinson, Siobhán. *Something Invisible*. Roaring Brook, 2006.

Gr. 5-7. The arrival of a baby sister leaves Dubliner Jake feeling isolated. Two new friends: Mrs. Kennedy, an elderly woman who understands his unusual interests and moodiness, and Stella, a girl persistent in her friendship, help to bring Jake closer to his family over a summer marked by heroism and tragedy. Siobhán Parkinson lives in Dublin.

Northern Ireland

Bateman, Colin. *Running With the Reservoir Pups*. Delacorte, 2003.

Gr. 5-8. Eddie’s life turns upside-down when his father moves out and his mother takes a new job in Belfast. Within a few weeks, Eddie has become involved with local gangle the Reservoir Pups and discovered a kidnapping plot. Now all he needs to become a hero is turn around his disastrously bad luck. Colin Bateman is from Bangor, Northern Ireland.

Norway

Hagerup, Klaus. *Markus and Diana*. Front Street, 2006.

Gr. 3-6. Sixth grader Markus is afraid of everything, but luckily for him, his best friend Simon is the most popular boy in school. Markus tries on different personalities as he writes letters to celebrities, and when the Norwegian actress he adores wants to meet him, he and Simon come up with a hilarious solution. Klaus Hagerup lives in Norway.

Poland

Everett, Charles, and Barbara Everett. *Poland (The Changing Face of – series)*. Raintree, 2004.

Gr. 4-7. The modern nation of Poland is shown by way of photographs, interviews with a variety of citizens, and comparisons to the recent past. Barbara Everett is Polish and regularly visits Poland along with Charles Everett.

Zwierzynska-Coldicott, Aldona Maria. *Poland (Festivals of the World series)*. Photos. Gareth-Stevens, 1998.

Gr. 4-6. Photographs and a short text explain the celebration of several traditional festivals in Poland. A recipe for nut mazurek and directions for making a Polish flag, a paper lace serviette, and a Palm Sunday palm are also included. Aldona Maria Zwierzynska-Coldicott lives in Poland.

Russia

Ilyin, Andrey. *In a Russian City (A Child's Day series)*. Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2001.

Gr. 1-2. Seven-year-old Polina lives with her parents in an apartment building in Saint Petersburg. During a typical day she goes to school and the library, rides the streetcar to shop with her mother, plays with her friends, goes to a theater group, does her homework, and has tea with her family before bed. Andrey Ilyin is a Russian photo-journalist living in Moscow.

Spirin, Gennady. *Martha*. Philomel, 2005.

Gr. 1-2. Five-year-old Ilya finds a wounded crow while walking with his mother in the park. He names the bird Martha and she lives with Ilya and his family in their Moscow home until her wing heals and she flies away. Gennady Spirin was born and lived in Russia until moving to the United States in 1991. This story is based on an experience of his young son while still living in Russia.

Spain

De Déu Prats, Joan. *Sebastian's Roller Skates*. Illus. by Francesc Rovira. Kane/Miller, 2005.

PreS-Gr. 3. As Sebastian gains proficiency on a pair of found skates, he discovers the courage to become more outgoing and daring in his personal relationships. Joan de Déu Prats lives in the Spanish state of Catalan. Francesc Rovira was born in Barcelona, Spain.

Scotland

Breslin, Theresa. *The Divided City*. Doubleday, 2005.

Gr. 6-9. Joe, who is Catholic, and Graham, who is Protestant, meet playing football and become friends as they work together to help Kyoul, a Muslim unregistered asylum seeker in Britain. Sports, religion, geography, history, and politics are deftly woven into this intriguing story about contemporary Glasgow. Theresa Breslin was born and lives near Glasgow.

Hedderwick, Mairi. *Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers*. Illus. Red Fox, 1999.

K-Gr. 2. After using big city Grannie Mainland's beauty products, Grannie Island's sheep wins a prize at the big annual Show Day. Because of this, Katie's two grandmothers finally come to appreciate one another. Mairi Hedderwick was born in Renfrewshire and lives in Edinburgh.

Sweden

Jacobson, Anders, and Soren Olsson. *In Ned's Head*. Trans. by Kevin Read. Atheneum, 2001.

Gr.4-6. A boy writing in a diary—unheard of! That's why Ned, aka Treb, prefers that none of his friends ever find out. This light-hearted novel in diary format deals with the ever-popular subjects of girls, bands, and bullying. The authors live near Orebro, Sweden.

Ukraine

Touba, Jacqueline and Barbara Glasser in collaboration with the IACA World Awareness Children's Museum. *Ukraine: Sasha Kotyenko's Painting "Embroidery Time"* (*Young Artists of the World* series). PowerKids Press/Rosen, 1997.

Gr. 3-4. Sasha tells about her country and about the picture she painted, when she was twelve, of a winter evening spent embroidering at home with her sisters. Photographs of the painting and of Ukrainian people complement the narrative. Sasha Kotyenko lives in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Wales

Doyle, Malachy. *Jody's Beans*. Illus. by Judith Allibone. Candlewick, 1999.

PreS-Gr. 1. Granda and Jody grow runner beans together in their very own garden. Malachy Doyle was born in Northern Ireland and lived there through college; he currently lives in Wales.

The British Isles Region

Cassidy, Cathy. *Dizzy*. Viking, 2004.

Gr. 5-7. Twelve-year-old Dizzy is kidnapped from her father's home in England by her free-spirited, flighty mother, Storm, and taken to Scotland where they camp and attend hippie festivals. Cathy Cassidy went to art school in Liverpool, England and lives in southwest Scotland.

The European Continent

Kyuchukov, Hristo and Ian Hancock. *A History of the Romani People*. Boyds Mills, 2005.

Gr. 2-5. Many colorful photos illustrate this appealing introduction to the history, language, culture, traditions and daily lives of the Romani people, who live throughout the world, but mainly in Europe. Kyuchukov lives in Bulgaria. Hancock, who grew up in England, served for eleven years as Ambassador for the Romani people to the United Nations.

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