10 Translated Books for the 14+ age group

Selected by Deborah Hallford of Outside In World – the organisation dedicated to promoting and exploring children’s literature from around the world

Arcadia Awakens (2012)  
Arcadia Burns (2013)  
Arcadia Falls (2014)  
Kai Meyer  
Translated from German by Anthea Bell  
Templar

German author Kai Meyer, weaves a dark, thrilling and suspenseful tale of many complexities. It cleverly combines the fantasy of ancient myths, shape-shifting and realistic detail of the ruthlessness of the Mafia. Set in Sicily and the USA the story follows seventeen-year-old Rosa Alcantara who visits the ancestral home of the Alcantara clan in Sicily to get away from her troubled past. Rosa’s one mistake is to make friends with the handsome Alessandro Carnevare, son of the capo of a Costa Nostra family, who just happens to be sworn enemies of the Alcantaras. Little does she know what is in store for her as she discovers family secrets and becomes embroiled in the world of the Mafia.

Arsène Lupin Vs Sherlock Holmes  
Maurice Leblanc  
Translated from French by David Carter  
Alma Classics (2015)

Arsène Lupin Vs Sherlock Holmes by French author Maurice Leblanc contains two stories – 'The Blond Lady' and 'The Jewish Lamp' – in a brand new English translation by David Carter. These stories display a battle of wits between a French gentleman thief and master of disguise Arsène Lupin and the world’s most famous British detective Sherlock Holmes. For any crime fiction fan this is a must read.
Finnish thriller series by Salla Simukka  
Translated from Finnish by Owen F. Witesman  
Hot Key Books

As Red as Blood (2014)  
As White as Snow (2015)  
As Black and Ebony (2015)

Seventeen-year-old Lumikki, whose name means Snow White in Finnish, has a motto – the easiest way to get by in life is to interfere as little as possible. Lumikki is cool and dispassionate, her attitude concealing secrets from her past that continue to haunt her. These well-crafted novels by Finnish author Salla Simukka are exceptionally atmospheric; Own F. Witesman’s translation captures all the tension as the stories evolves as well as the descriptive prose, particularly of the freezing, relentless Finnish winter and the searing heat of a hot summer in Prague. The novels have all the key ingredients of a good thriller intertwined around topical subjects such as the murky criminal underworld, dangerous cults, stalkers and obsession.

Girl Detached  
Manuela Salvi  
Translated from Italian by Denise Muir  
The Bucket List (2016)

*Girl Detached* by Italian author Manuela Salvi was originally banned, due to its strong content, and withdrawn from sale in its native Italy. This hard-hitting novel focuses on the uncomfortable and often disturbing subject of teenage grooming, an extremely important story, powerfully told and expertly translated by Denise Muir.

Marina  
Carlos Ruiz Zafón  
Translated from Spanish by Lucia Graves  

Fifteen-year-old Oscar Drai discovers a semi-dilapidated villa on the outskirts of Barcelona where he meets Marina and her father Germán Blau. Marina takes Oscar to the hidden Sarria graveyard to watch a macabre ritual that occurs on the fourth Sunday of every month. They follow the mysterious ‘lady in black’ and begin a journey that takes them to a forgotten, post-war Barcelona where a dark secret lays waiting in the mysterious labyrinth beneath the city streets.
Naondel
Maria Turtschaninoff
Translated from Finnish by A.A. Prime
Pushkin Children’s Books (2017)

Naondel tells the back story of the founding sisters:– Kabira the first Mother), Garai (the High Priestess), Estegi the servant and second Mother, Orseola the Dreamweaver, Sulani the Brave, Clarás who led the flight, Daera the first Rose and Iona, who was lost. Maria Turtschaninoff’s novel is a cross-over feminist epic that gives insight into a time when women were nothing more than chattels. The stories of these women show them finding friendship and salvation in each other when all else is lost, but also displaying incredible strength in the face of terrible adversity. A novel of true sisterhood, excellently translated from Finnish by A. A. Prime, one that lingers long after you have put it down.

Vango: Between Sky and Earth
Timothée de Fombelle
Translated from French by Sarah Ardizzone
Walker Books (2014)

Vango: Between Earth and Sky is the brilliant new novel from French author Timothée de Fombelle. Falsely accused of a crime he hasn’t committed, Vango must flee Paris where he was about to be ordained as a priest. Set in the 1930s interwar years, this is a gripping mystery that spans Europe. For Vango it becomes a race against time in order to prove his innocence and uncover the secrets of his past.

Vango: Prince Without a Kingdom
Timothée de Fombelle
Translated from French by Sarah Ardizzone
Walker Books (2016)

In this sequel to Vango: Between Sky and Earth, master storyteller Timothée de Fombelle weaves an intricate tale as it continues the journey of Vango as he sets out to discover his identity. Vango has been in danger for as long as he can remember. He has spent most of his adult life constantly on the run, fleeing from unknown forces who have been chasing him and abandoning those he loves in order to protect them. Set against the historical backdrop of the Second World War this is another mystery full of intrigue and adventure that you will not be able to put down.