10 Translated Books for the 9-11 age group

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

An Elephantasy
Mariá Elena Walsh
Translated from Spanish by Daniel Hahn
Pushkin Children's Books, 2016

An extraordinary surreal story in the nonsense genre reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* by Argentinian author Mariá Elena Walsh, translated by Daniel Hahn. Set in reality, but where fantastical and daft things happen, from flying elephants that are partial to oat soup, a pop-up forest, a fireman who speaks in rhyme and much, much more.

Bronze and Sunflower
Cao Wenxuan
Translated from Chinese by Helen Wang
Walker Books, 2015

Set against the backdrop of the Cultural Revolution this beautiful novel by Chinese author Cao Wenxuan with its effortless and flowing translation by Helen Wang, is about Bronze, who has been unable to speak since a traumatic childhood experience, and Sunflower, who is orphaned and taken in by Bronze's family. Life is hard and they must work together to survive.

Catlantis
Anna Starobinets, illustrated by Andrzej Klimowski
Translated from Russian by Jane Bugaeva
Pushkin Children's Books

This is a witty tale of love, time-travel adventure and a lost civilization by Russian author Anna Starobinets, translated by Jane Bugaeva. Baguette is just an ordinary regular house cat who lives on the 12th floor of a high rise block in Moscow, but when he falls in love with the beautiful Purriana, his life changes for ever.
Detective Gordon: A Complicated Case
Ulf Nilsson, illustrated by Gitte Spee
Translated from Swedish by Julia Marshall
Gecko Press, 2016

There’s something amiss in the Forest. All the animals seem troubled, but no one dares to report the incidents to the police. It’s up to Detective Gordon and his little police assistant Buffy to investigate and discover the culprit. Another engaging book in the Detective Gordon series from Swedish author Ulf Nilsson with enchanting pen and ink watercolour by Gitte Spee.

Detective Nosegoode and the Music Box Mystery
Marian Ortoń
Translated from Polish by Pushkin Children’s Books, 2017

Ambrosius Nosegoode, the famous detective is enjoying a quiet retirement along with his remarkable talking dog. But a mysterious crime soon disturbs their peace when a music box is stolen. This is the first, in a series of classic books about Detective Nosegoode and his dog Cody, by Polish author Marian Ortoń.

Fuzz McFlops
Eva Furnari
Translated from Portuguese by Alison Entrekin
Pushkin Children’s Books, 2015

Fuzz McFlops is a famous rabbit-poet and writer, but ever since he was teased about his lopsided ears he’s led a lonely and reclusive life, which is reflected in his writing. When Fuzz receives a letter from a fan daring criticise some of his work Fuzz is outraged. Brazilian author Eva Furnari’s clever and unusual book is full of wry exchanges.

The Secret of the Blue Glass
Tomiko Inui
Translated from Japanese by Ginny Tapley Takemo
Pushkin Children’s Books, 2015

Written in 1959 by Japanese author Tomiko Inui the story is set in Tokyo, 1913, when young Tatsuo Moriyami is entrusted with the task of looking after the Little People by his English teacher Miss MacLachlan who is returning to England. There is only one thing they need to survive – a nightly glass of milk, served in a sparkling blue goblet. An unusual and deeply moving book.
**Shola and the Lions**  
Bernardo Atxaga, illustrated by Mikel Valverde  
Translated from Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa  
Pushkin Children’s Books, 2015

Shola is a feisty little dog with attitude who sets out to discover her inner lioness. She is determined to take charge and voice her opinions, which she frequently does!

This is the first story from *The Adventures of Shola*, a collection of four stories by Basque writer Bernardo Atxaga with comic-style pen and ink and watercolour illustrations by Basque artist, Mikel Valverde.

**The Story of a Snail who Discovered the Importance of Being Slow**  
Luis Sepúlveda, illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura  
Translated from Spanish by Nick Caistor  
Alma Books, 2017

A young snail is incredibly curious and can’t stop asking his friends awkward questions. He wants to know why snails are so slow. The other snails become exasperated with him and banish him from the snail community forcing him out into the wide world alone. Chilean author Luis Sepúlveda’s story is a wonderful ode to our environment, accompanied by delightful black and white drawings by Satoshi Kitamura.

**Wildwitch 1: Wildfire**  
**Wildwitch 2: Oblivion**  
**Wildwitch 3: Life Stealer**  
**Wildwitch 4: Bloodling**  
Lene Kaaberbøl  
Translated from Danish by Charlotte Barslund  
Pushkin Children’s Books, (All published 2016)

The ‘Wildwitch’ series is a magical adventure that weaves an engaging story combining fantasy with the natural world by Danish author Lene Kaaberbol. Twelve-year-old Clara has a normal life, or so she thinks, but when she is introduced to her true nature – a Wildwitch, who can communicate with animals, and harness the magical powers of the natural world around her – everything changes.