10 Translated Books for the Under 5’s

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

Astrid Lindgren’s Tomten Tales
Astrid Lindgren, illustrated by Harald Wilberg
Translated from Swedish
Floris Books, 2017

Two classic stories – The Tomten and The Tomten and the Fox by Sweden’s acclaimed children’s author have been created into this edition, with the original soft, enchanting illustrations by Harald Wilberg, allowing the world of the Tomten to be vividly brought to life.

The Clever Mouse
Anahita Teymorian
Translated from Persian by Azita Rassi
Tiny Owl Publications, 2015

This charming story by Iranian author and illustrator Anahita Teymorian is about a mouse who is full of his own self-importance. The illustrations are so expressive against the rich, lush colour background that is imbued with symbolism.

The 5 Misfits
Beatrice Alemagna
Translated from Italian
Frances Lincoln Children’s Books, 2016

A quirky tale about Five Misfits who live together and who never feel like doing anything, nor do they amount to much in life. Alemagna’s unique collage artwork captures the individuality of the characters and the message about difference, tolerance and identity.
Gus's workshop is full of paraphernalia; everything is kept because Gus knows that there will be a use for them one day. The vibrant artwork of Gus's incredible wacky inventions by Belgian author/illustrator Leo Timmers make this a stunning picture book.

A beautiful picture book from Finland by author/illustrator Riikka Jäntti about a delectable Little Mouse who is very keen to help his mother prepare the house for a visit from his friend Pip. The rich illustrations in pen and ink, watercolour and gouache are gorgeous.

Raven, Crayfish and Horse are all best friends. Now grown up they are anxious not to be separated so decide to build a big new house where they and their families can all live together. A universal story about the importance of friendship from Latvian author Inese Zandere with gentle child-like illustrations from Juris Petraškevičs that are full of vibrant playfulness.

A gentle, humorous story about Tiger who is brave and cheerful and almost never, ever fierce by talented Polish duo Przemystaw Wechterowic and Emilia Dziubak. It cleverly turns the stereotypical characteristics of a Tiger on its head defying conventional expectation and demonstrating the possibility of difference.
**Stripe Island**  
Tupera Tupera  
Translated from Japanese  
Thames & Hudson, 2015

Everything is stripy on Stripy Island. There are stripy mountains, fields, trees and even stripy houses in Stripe City. In fact there is all sorts of stripiness in this book by Japanese husband and wife design team Tupera Tupera who have created a fizzling book full of fun psychedelic colour.

**When Dad Showed Me the Universe**  
Ulf Stark, illustrated by Eva Eriksson  
Translated from Swedish by Julia Marshall  
Gecko Press, 2015

A Dad takes his son on a journey to discover the universe – a sky full of magical wonder. Swedish author Ulf Stark’s story is simply told and infused with his trade-mark humour. Eva Eriksson’s illustrations perfectly captures both the comedy and awe of the narrator in her expressive artwork.

**Wolfy**  
Grégoire Solotare  
Translated from French by Daniel Hahn  
Gecko Press, 2017

Tom the rabbit meets a young wolf and they become good friends. French author/illustrator Grégoire Solotare’s picture book has sold over a million copies under its original French title *Loulou*. A witty and endearing story it shows the power of friendship – of a rabbit and a wolf who want to be best friends.