

The School of Magical Animals by Margit Auer Illustrated by Nina Dulleck

Original Title: Die Schule der Magischen Tiere

Working Title: The School of Magical Animals

Original Language: German / Germany

Publisher: Carlsen Verlag, Germany

Publishing date: 2013

Number of pages: 200

Recommended age: 8-12



Over 3.5 Million copies sold worldwide

Films of the series released in Germany 2021 and 2022

Translated into over 25 languages... but not English!

A school-based series involving magical animals that has sold over 3.5 million copies worldwide

About the author

Margit Auer (1967) was born in Mühldorf an Inn, Germany. Before turning to children's books, she was a journalist, writing for the Süddeutsche Zeitung and the German News Agency dpa. On the arrival of her three sons, she began reading lots of children's books and decided to try her hand at writing her own. And so began her career as a best-selling children's author. In 2019, Auer was honoured with the **Heidelberger Leander Prize for the School of Magical Animals series**. www.margitauer.com

About the illustrator

Nina Dulleck (1975) has drawn and painted since she could first hold a paintbrush or a pencil in her hand. She has illustrated many children's books by different authors as well as creating her own. www.ninadulleck.de

About the translator

Claire Storey is a literary translator working from Spanish and German into English. She translates for adults and children, but has a particular interest in YA and MG. Claire is co-editor of **World Kid Lit**, highlighting the importance of books in translation for young readers. In 2021/22 Claire received Arts Council England funding for a translation project looking at YA Literature from Latin America. She was named Outreach Champion 2021 by the Institute of Translation and Interpreting for her work in schools and would be happy to discuss "author" visits and marketing events.

Publishing Rights

World English language rights available.

Rights representative: Tibooks on behalf of Carlsen Verlag
Contact person: Tina
Email: tina@tibooks.co.uk
Website: <https://www.carlsen.de>

THE SCHOOL OF MAGICAL ANIMALS
MARGIT AUER // GERMANY

claire@cslanguages.co.uk | [@ClaireStorey16](https://twitter.com/ClaireStorey16) | www.clairestoreylanguages.co.uk

Overview

This series of 13 books for boys and girls is a bestseller in Germany and Austria. The stories revolve around a school with a difference and new teacher - a quirky Scot called Ms Cornfield - has a surprise for her pupils. She identifies the children in the class who need a little more support and matches them up with a new best friend: a magical talking animal. Their new friend helps them overcome their worries, fears and gives their confidence a boost. But the deal is: you must not tell anyone outside of the class about them.

These are gentle, heart-warming adventure stories for the middle grade age group. Written with short chapters and black and white illustrations, the books have been a runaway success for Carlsen Verlag. Such is their success, the second School of Magical Animals film was described by the Australian German Film Festival as the "most popular German film of 2022."

Why This Book?

Over 3,5 million copies sold

Two films

A spin-off series

A joke book

Take the quiz to find out which magical animal you are

Gifs for social media

Translated into over 25 languages...

but not yet English!

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Praise for The School of Magical Animals

‘This series is just magical and belongs in every child’s book shelf.’
buecherregal.blogspot

‘The magical and adventurous stories bring joy to every child!’
buchjournal

‘A wonderful, wild and clever series about friendship,
growing up and being yourself!’
Slomo

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Review from World Kid Lit

2019

This series of 10 books first began to appear in 2013 and new releases are now hotly anticipated by fans. The series has been so successful that there is now also a complimentary spin-off series, following some of the books' favourite characters as they set off on their holidays. You can even take the School of Magical Animals Test on the Carlsen website (in German) to find out what animal type is hiding in you and sign up to the School of Magical Animals newsletter.

So, let's see what all the fuss is about and take a closer look at Book One.

Ida has just moved house and is about to start a new school: Winterstein School. She's feeling a little nervous and misses her old friends. Benni lives just down the road from Ida. He has few friends and feels like no one ever takes him seriously. It's the first day back at school and this year there's a new teacher: Miss Cornfield. Miss Cornfield comes from Scotland and her brother, Mister Mortimer Morrison runs the Magical Pet Shop.

Mr. Morrison travels the world, searching for magical animals who long to be understood and find their one special friend. With help from Miss Cornfield, a couple of pupils in her class will be chosen to receive a magical pet to be their best friend.

Benni initially has high hopes that Ida could be his new best friend but when she overlooks an invitation to his birthday party, Benni feels snubbed. Ida (who has completely forgotten all about the invitation) just can't understand why Benni has suddenly stopped talking to her and her gaze is drawn towards Jo, the really cute guy with the cool clothes.

Having prepared the reader with their back stories, it comes as no surprise that it's Ida and Benni who each get a magical pet: Rabbat the Fox and Henrietta the Tortoise respectively. Their pets help their new human friends as they navigate their passage through assignments and friendships, offering advice along the way. Only the chosen human can hear when their magical animal speaks.

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While Jo may be cute and cool, he has his own issues to deal with and when he gets into trouble at school and therefore at home, he sets a plan in motion (involving stink bombs!) to wreak revenge on Benni, who he feels has caused all his problems.

This culminates in all three children meeting at the school in the dead of night. While initially hostile to each other, by the end of the night, the children have reached an understanding and reconciliation. Moving forward, they begin to recognise the strengths each other has to offer and help each other achieve their full potential. Having revealed his own weaknesses, towards the end of the book, Jo receives his very own magical pet: a penguin called Juri. Incidentally, we are introduced to Juri in the very first pages of the book as Mister Morrison finds him, sad and lonely in the Antarctic.

The parting few pages set the book up nicely for the next title in the series. Mr. Morrison is on the hunt for another magical animal off the Indian Ocean. He finds a chameleon called Ashanti who can't wait to find a new friend...

I really like the way the characters are developed. They all have their worries and concerns. Ida and Benni can start to voice their worries and discuss them with their magical animal friend, turning to them for advice. Jo, in particular, is an interesting character. Starting off as the nonchalant cool kid who doesn't care, we discover that actually he cares a lot and he has his own problems at home. His carefree attitude is perhaps just a defensive mechanism. It's great for kids to see that there is often a reason behind certain behaviours.

I also like that these are relatively gentle adventure stories. My nine-year-old son wants adventure but finds some books aimed at his age group just too much and refuses to read them. In these, there is creeping around at night, stink bombs and the potential for getting a good telling off but that's about as far as it goes.

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Financial Assistance to Aid Translation

The Goethe-Institut offers financial assistance to promote the translation of works from Germany, including children's books.

From the New Books in German website:

The Goethe-Institut website gives further information on the process, including details of forthcoming deadlines and decision dates. The page also links to the online application portal. The Goethe-Institut advises people to apply early.

Generally, 40%-60% of the total translation fee is covered. There is a maximum payment of 8,000 Euros per book.

If you want to discuss your application before filling the form in, or have any questions, you are very welcome to contact the Goethe Institut employees listed at the following links:

Goethe-Institut London -

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/kul/ser/uef.html>

Goethe-Institut New York -

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/kul/bks/uef.html>

NEXT APPLICATION PERIOD

1 May to 1 June 2023 for translations going to press in August 2023 or later. The funding decision will be communicated to the applicant by email on 17 July 2023.

Our calls for proposals are open for a one-month period four times a year, with closing dates on 1 March, 1 June, 15 September and 1 December.