

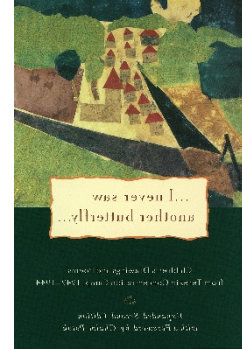
## Literature/Activities from Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia:

### Books for Children, ages 9-13

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

*I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from the Terezin Concentration Camp, Czechoslovakia 1942-1944* by Hana Volavkova, editor. Afterword by Vaclav Havel. Schocken, 1994.

Fifteen thousand children under the age of fifteen passed through the Terezin Concentration Camp. Fewer than 100 survived. In these poems and pictures drawn by the young inmates, we see the daily misery of these uprooted children, as well as their hopes and fears, their courage and optimism. 60 color illustrations.



#### CROATIA

*The Brave Adventures of Lapitch* by Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić.

Please see the description in the section for younger children. For children, ages 5-10.

*Happy Days* by Miro Gavran. Zagreb: La Valleta, 2003.

Two eleven year old boys, who are best friends, want to become brothers. One of them has only a father, and the other has only a mother. The young heroes set up many opportunities for their parents to get to know each other, to lead them to the alter, and the realization of their dreams. A delightful story about children who want to have a whole family. Also available by interlibrary loan: [https://www.worldcat.org/title/happy-days/oclc/476209267&referer=brief\\_results](https://www.worldcat.org/title/happy-days/oclc/476209267&referer=brief_results)



#### POLAND

*King Matt the First* by Itzhak Belfer.

Young Matt was just ten years old when he had to ascend the throne and become king after his father's death. When three kings declare war on his kingdom, he decides to fight them and manages to make peace using his good nature and human compassion. One of the most beloved works of 20th century literature.

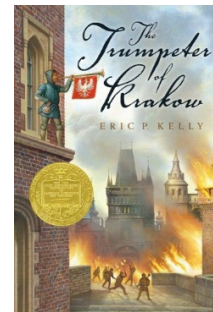
*The Safest Lie* by Angela Cerrito. New York: Holiday House, 2018.

Nine-year-old Anna Bauman is one of many Jewish children who Jolanta (code name for the real-life World War II Resistance spy Irena Sendler) smuggles out of the Warsaw ghetto. Anna, given a new name and false papers, must keep her true identity secret. Ironically, she discovers that the most difficult part isn't remembering her new identity, but trying not to forget the old one. Anna's story sheds light on another aspect of the Holocaust: rescued children who lost not only their loved ones, but their very identities and Jewish heritage.



*The Trumpeter of Krakow* by Eric Kelly. Illustrated by Janina Domanska. Aladdin, 1992.

When Joseph and his family seek refuge in medieval Krakow, they are caught up in the plots and intrigues of alchemists, hypnotists, and a dark messenger of evil. Will Joseph be able to protect the great Tarnov crystal and the city from the plundering Tartars?



## RUSSIA

*Malachite Casket [Box]: Tales from the Urals* by Pavel Bazhov.

Please see the description in the younger children section.

*The Two Captains* by Veniamin Kaverin. New York: Modern Age Books, 1942. Fredonia Books, 2003 (Reprint).

Based on the diary of Lieutenant Georgii Brusilov, who in 1912 organized an expedition seeking a west-to-east Northern sea route. It was later seized by ice and carried to the north of the Kara Sea. The expedition survived two hard winters. An amazing read about brave men, revolution, villains, suffering, the Arctic and love! One of the most popular works of Soviet literature.



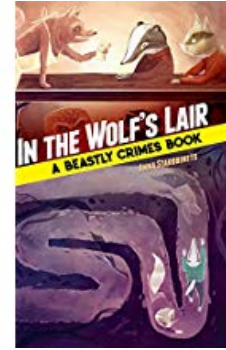
*Catlantis* by Anna Starobinets. Illustrated by Andrzej Klimowski. Translated by Jane Bugaeva. New York Review Children's Collection, 2016.

Baguette, a seemingly ordinary house cat, is a descendant of the magic Catlanteans who lived long ago in peace and happiness on the island of Catlantis. When he falls in love with the alley cat Purriana, she insists Baguette accomplish a heroic feat before she'll agree to marriage. Baguette must travel into the past to bring back the Catlantic flowers that will grant every cat nine lives.

*In the Wolf's Lair: A Beastly Crimes Book* by Anna Starobinets.

Illustrated by Marie Muravski. Translated by Jane Bugaeva.  
Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 2018.

An elderly detective, Chief Badger, oversees an animal community and solves its petty crimes, from stolen pine cones to plucked tail feathers. His restless assistant, Badgercat, longs for some excitement — a desperate crime, a beastly crime! The brash youngster's hopes are realized when some croaking frogs reveal the shocking news of Rabbit's murder. The woodland detectives set out to discover the truth.

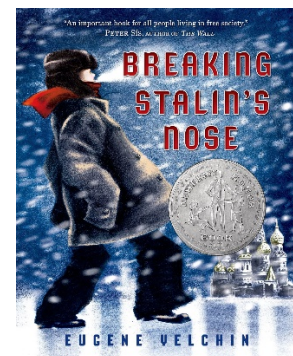


*The Raven's Children* by Yulia Yakovleva. Translated by Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp. Puffin Publishing, 2018.

Based on the true story of the author's family, this novel takes place in Russia in 1938, a time of great terror. A young boy desperately seeks his family after they mysteriously disappear, taken by "The Raven." He decides to hunt down the Raven, finding help in the most unexpected places but facing more danger than he has ever known.

*Breaking Stalin's Nose* by Eugene Velchin. New York: Henry Holt, 2011.

Now that it's time for Sasha to join the Young Pioneers, everything seems to go wrong. He breaks a classmate's glasses and accidentally damages a bust of Stalin. And worst of all, his father, the best Communist he knows, was arrested just last night. A moving story of a ten-year-old boy's world shattering, both powerful and heartbreaking. Based on the author's life. A Newbery Honor book for upper elementary age children. Great read for a social studies unit.



## UKRAINE

*My Ukrainian American Story* by Adrianna Oksana Bamber, and illustrator.  
San Francisco, California: A. Bamber, 2017.

Journey with the author as she shares her Ukrainian American experience. Explore a vibrant world filled with the customs, food, crafts, music and holiday traditions passed down from generations of Ukrainians. Oksana's appreciation of her culture empowers children to celebrate their heritage.

