

CATALOGUE OF IDEAS



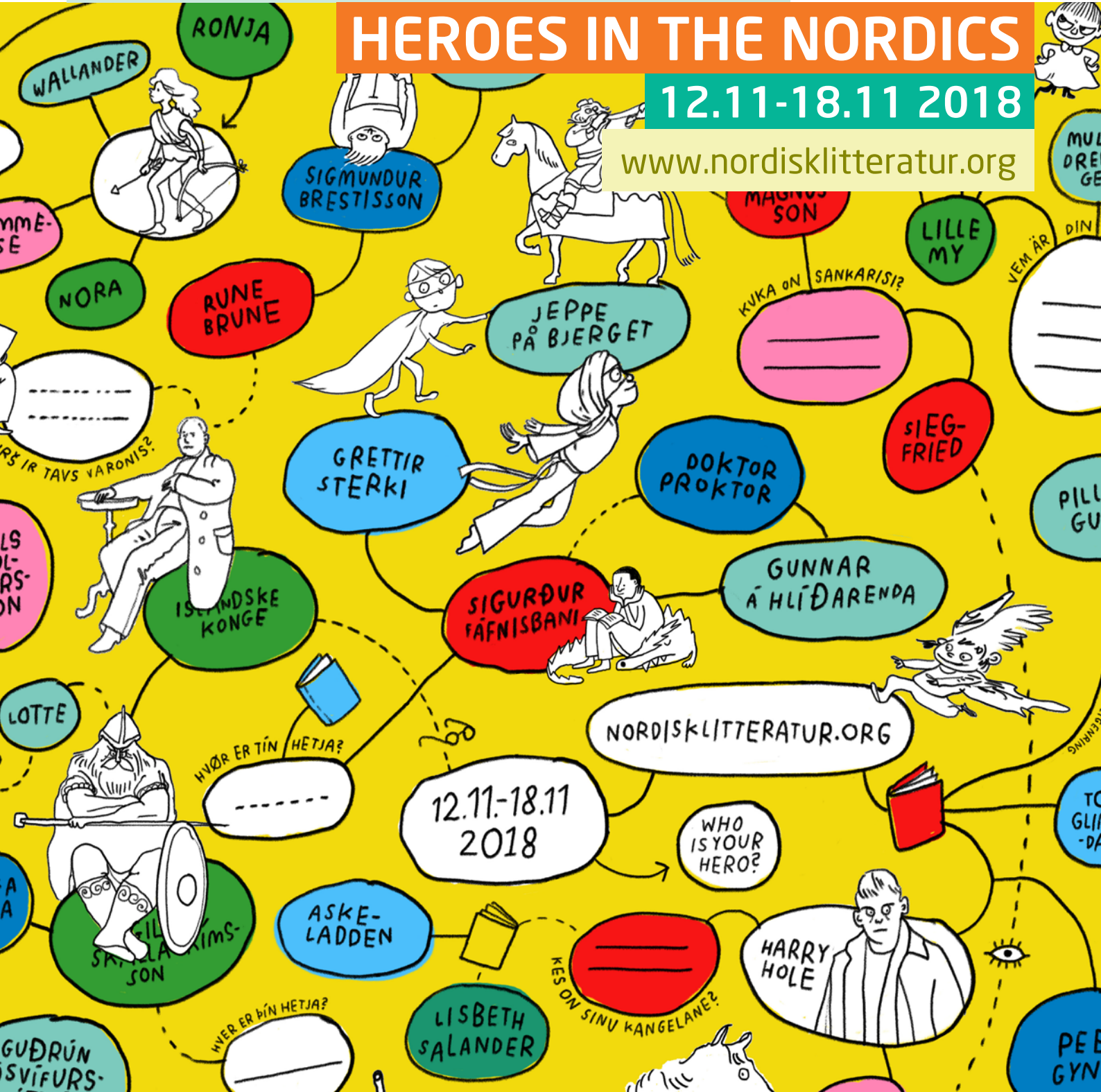
NORDIC LITERATURE WEEK


«Light a candle and read with all the Nordic countries»

HEROES IN THE NORDICS

12.11-18.11 2018

www.nordisklitteratur.org



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WELCOME TO THE NORDIC LITERATURE WEEK 2018

In 2018, the Nordic Associations invite children, youth and adults for another Nordic Literature Week with new literary experiences. **The 12th-18th of November 2018** the same books will be read aloud across the Nordic and Baltic countries, from Greenland in the west to the Baltic countries in the east. Monday the 13th of November marks The Big Reading Aloud Day. The read aloud for children and youth, **Morning Dawn**, takes place at 9 AM. **Evening Dusk**, the read aloud for adults, take place in the evening, at 7 PM. The exact time can of course be adjusted if needed.

There are endless possibilities during the Nordic Literature Week. With this Catalogue of Ideas, we wish to present you with ideas of how day care centres, schools, libraries and other cultural institutions can put together an interesting and diverse programme during the Nordic Literature Week 2018. The ideas are divided into target groups, i.e. children, youth and adults. We would nevertheless like to point out that age is only a number, and that these ideas could potentially provide inspiration to activities for other age groups than the one they were originally intended for.

This year, children, youth and adults get the chance to meet various literary heroes, as the Nordic Literature Week takes on the theme of **Heroes in the Nordics**. The yearly theme of the Nordic Literature Week creates the focal point for the Literature Week and characterizes everything from that year's books to be read aloud, to the Literature Week's activities and events.

A special thanks to:

Kristin Magnúsdóttir, Heidi Lønne Grønseth, Kitty Rönnerberg, Julia Brink, Annica Andersson, Merete Riber, Marjun Patursson, Mette Laustsen, Einar Már Guðmundsson, Simon Stranger, Elias Våhlund og Agnes Våhlund, Rán Flygenring.

Handbook for Superheroes, written by the Swedish couple Elias and Agnes Våhlund, is the read aloud book for the youngest listeners. The book is about Lisa who, one day, finds a mysterious book in the library when she is hiding from the gang of boys who is bullying her. The book turns out to be a handbook for superheroes, and with its help, Lisa begins the journey towards become the amazing superhero, The Red Mask.

Those Who Don't Exist, by the Norwegian author Simon Stranger, is the read aloud book for the youth listeners. The book is about Samuel from Ghana, who has made the dangerous journey to Europe in hope for a better life, and Emelie, who finds herself in an unexpected situation when her moral values are being tested – because what do you do when an illegal immigrant suddenly turns up at your door?

Icelandic Kings, by the Icelandic author Einar Már Guðmundsson, is the read aloud book for adults. The book is a collection of wildly amusing stories about the fictional Knudsen family, who we follow for more than two centuries. In the book, Einar Már challenges the traditional view of a heroic character by making the fools Icelandic heroes.

On the Nordic Literature Week's website, www.nordisklitteratur.org, you will find more information about this year's books as well as material and resources that can be used alongside the reading.

We hope all the organizers and participants will get many beautiful literary experiences during the Nordic Literature Week 2018.

Happy reading!



WIN A BOOK!

PHOTO COMPETITION ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK

Share your experiences from the Nordic Literature Week 2018 and send your best photos to our photo competition. The pictures must reflect this year's theme, Heroes in the Nordics, in one way or another. To participate, just upload the photos on Instagram or share them with us on our **Instagram** or **Facebook** and tag them with **#nordisklitt18**. All entries will be considered for the award of a book of the winner's own choice from any of this year's authors. So let your fantasy run wild and go get some great shots!

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK!

Follow the Nordic Literature Week on Instagram and Facebook for more pictures, updates and exciting news!



Entries in last year's competition.

MORNING DAWN

READING ALOUD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



The reading aloud for children and youths takes place at dawn. *Handbook for superheroes* is written by the Swedish couple Elias and Agnes Våhlund, and is a story rich of illustrations chosen for the reading aloud for children. The exciting teen novel, *Those Who Don't Exist*, is written by the Norwegian author Simon Stranger, and is the chosen book for reading aloud for the teens.

The experience surrounding the reading aloud starts before the book has even been opened; by closing the curtains, dimming the lights and lighting a few candles, you can create a captivating atmosphere ahead of the reading. If you have access to a projector, the experience can be enriched by displaying the book's front cover, this year's poster from the Nordic Literature Week, or illustrations from the book.

Handbook for Superheroes, along with its illustrations, and *Those Who Don't Exist*, will be available from the Nordic Literature Week's website for all participating institutions from the 1st of November.

IDEAS FOR CHILDREN: WHILE READING ALOUD

LET THE HERO READ ALOUD

What could be better than a hero reading aloud for the children? Get inspired by the literary heroes and dress up. The person reading aloud could e.g. dress up as the hero, The Red Mask, who we meet in the chosen children's book, *Handbook for Superheroes*. On the Nordic Literature Week's website, you will find simple instructions on how to make your own mask for heroes.



CO-OPERATE WITH THE LOCAL SCHOOL OR LIBRARY

The Nordic Literature Week creates the perfect opportunity to increase co-operation between schools and libraries. Invite a school class to come listen to the reading or invite a librarian to do the reading at your school.

READ OUTSIDE

During the cold and dark November, children and adults stay inside most of the day. Therefore, it could be fun to read aloud outside in the early morning hours. Put on some warm clothes and go find a tree trunk to sit on, some seat pads or the play unit in the schoolyard.

IDEAS FOR CHILDREN: ACTIVITIES

DIVE INTO THE BOOK

Work with this year's children's book, *Handbook for Superheroes*, both before and after having read it aloud. You could for example study the book's front cover and discuss what you think the book is about. After having read it aloud, you can discuss what kind of thoughts you had while listening to it, e.g. were there any difficult words?

WHO ARE THE HEROES HIDING IN THIS YEAR'S POSTER?

Print the Nordic Literature Week's poster for 2018. Let the children study the poster and talk about which heroes they see. They can also write a short story about one of the heroes that captures their interest.

NORDIC CORNER IN THE LIBRARY

Create a Nordic corner with Nordic books about heroes. Put up this year's poster and put this year's literature, alongside other Nordic literature, e.g. from the Nordic Literature Week's list of additional reading. Find material for visiting kids so they can draw or paint with the theme Heroes in the Nordics, and then make the drawings part of the exhibition.

FOCUS ON THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Use the Nordic Literature Week as an opportunity to showcase and learn more about the Nordic countries. What do their flags look like, what are the names of their capitals, and what are their national animals? You can find a Nordic quiz on our website, www.nordisklitteratur.org.



MAKE TIME TO DISCUSS BULLYING

In the book *Handbook for Superheroes*, we meet Lisa who is being bullied by the boys at her school. Thus, the book creates a good starting point to discuss bullying. What would the children have told Lisa if they had seen her being bullied? What would the children have done if they themselves or someone else in the class had been bullied? It could be a good idea for the children to answer these questions in written form, as it may be a sensitive topic to discuss together.

WHO'S BEHIND THE MASK?

You don't need a lot to feel like a real superhero. On the Nordic Literature Week's website, you can find simple instructions on how to make a mask for heroes, based on the hero, The Red Mask, who we meet in the book *Handbook for Superheroes*.

DRAW YOUR OWN SUPERHERO

Find pen and paper and let the children draw their own superhero. What superpower does the hero have? What does the hero look like? And what's the hero's real identity? Put the drawings on the wall of the classroom and make an exhibition during the Nordic Literature Week.

IDEAS FOR YOUTH: WHILE READING ALOUD

READ ALOUD FOR EACH OTHER

Use the Nordic Literature Week as an opportunity to focus on reading aloud. Ask for volunteers in the class to read aloud parts of the extract from *Those Who Don't Exist* to the rest of the class.

CO-OPERATE WITH THE LOCAL SCHOOL OR LIBRARY

The Nordic Literature Week creates the perfect opportunity to increase co-operation between schools and libraries. Invite a school class to come listen to the reading or invite a librarian to do the reading at your school.

IDEAS FOR YOUTH: ACTIVITIES

GIVE LIFE TO A NORDIC HERO

If you go to the library, there will be countless heroes hiding on the shelves. On the Nordic Literature Week's website, you can find a list of additional reading with books where a hero plays a central role. Choose a book with or about a hero, write a short text about the hero, and speak to the rest of your class about the literary heroes you have found. Who are they? What makes them heroes? And how would they be perceived if they lived in 2018?

WRITING WORKSHOP

Do any of the young listeners perhaps possess a hidden writing talent? Invite an author over to do a writing workshop with the future talents. They can for example write about a hero, or an antihero. How about ending the Nordic Literature Week by reading the stories of the teenagers' own literary heroes?

STUDY THE NORDIC LANGUAGES

An extract from the book, *Those Who Don't Exist*, is available in all the Nordic languages on the website of the Nordic Literature Week. Combine the read aloud with a study session about the Nordic languages, and if you are really brave, you can read the extract in another Nordic language. If you have students studying a Nordic language, you can have them practice translating the extract from English into the language they are studying, and then they can compare it to the translated version on the website.

READ ALOUD GROUP

Gather a few students to create a read aloud group and go around the school or library with a book in your hand. Spread literature and let the teenagers read aloud for the younger kids. If anyone is extra brave, they can read aloud for an entire class.



DIVE INTO THE TEXT

Ask the young listeners to write a summary of the text extract and discuss the linguistic characteristics and the figures of speech they noticed. Alternatively, the students can read the extract themselves and choose a sentence that moves them in some way. Then, divide the students into groups to discuss which thoughts pop into their heads. What makes these very sentences interesting?

REFUGEE STORIES

In *Those Who Don't Exist*, we meet the Ghanaian youth, Samuel, who arrives to Norway as an illegal immigrant. The book sheds light on the situation of illegal immigrants in Europe, thereby creating a good opportunity to talk about the subject. Invite e.g. an asylum seeker or refugee to join the reading aloud or to visit during the Nordic Literature Week and have them tell their stories.

WHO IS THE HERO?

Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Ask all the groups to find a hero on the Nordic Literature Week's poster for 2018 that they do not know. The task is to find out who the hero is, which book the hero is from, and what makes that person a hero.

USE THE TEACHING PORTAL NORDEN I SKOLEN

Norden i Skolen is a free teaching portal for Nordic teachers and pupils who want to work with themes such as language and culture, and/or climate change and natural sciences. Create an account on www.nordeniskolen.org and get access to a variety of free teaching material that you can make use of during the Nordic Literature Week. Please note that the materials are available in all the Nordic languages, though not in English.

MAKE A FILM

Use *Those Who Don't Exist* as the basis, and then make a short film where you dramatize a chapter from the book. You could for example act out the chapter when Samuel stands knocking on Emelie's bedroom window. Divide the class into smaller groups and end the Nordic Literature Week by showing all the video clips.



EVENING DUSK

READING ALOUD FOR ADULTS



Evening dusk is the read aloud event for adults. It takes place when the November darkness has set in. This year's chosen text extract is from the Icelandic novel *Icelandic Kings*, written by Einar Már Guðmundsson.

The experience surrounding the reading aloud starts before the book has even been opened; by closing the curtains, dimming the lights and lighting a few candles, you can create a captivating atmosphere ahead of the reading.

The extract from *Icelandic Kings* will be available on the website of the Nordic Literature Week from the 1st of October.

IDEAS FOR ADULTS

COMBINE THE READING WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

Does the library already organize language cafés for immigrants, returning events for children, a knitting café or a book club? If so, you could read this year's text extract, or some other Nordic literature, and combine it with the already existing event to make a big Nordic literature feast.

"POP-UP" READING

Spread the joy of reading aloud during the Nordic Literature Week. Invite drama students or the local theatre to co-operate on "pop-up reading" around town. Bring a book, go to different streets, squares and/or parks etc., and read aloud in the places where people expect it the least. You can light a torch in the dusk for added effect.

NORDIC TUNES

Nordic music can be a nice addition to the reading aloud event. Organize a small concert with some Nordic musicians or make a sing-along with famous Nordic songs.



INVITE AN AUTHOR

Combine the reading aloud with a visit from an author. You could perhaps get an author nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize to visit you, or the Nordic Council's Children's and Youth Prize. Or why not some other author who has also written about some kind of hero?

NORDIC FOOD EVENING

Invite guests, students or bypassers to a hyggelig (nice and cosy) evening with Nordic food. How about trying Norwegian **rømmegrøt**, Danish **smørrebrød** or **Karelian pasties** from Finland?

DO A FILM SCREENING OF AN ICELANDIC FILM

Combine the reading aloud with the screening of an Icelandic film. You could for example screen the critically acclaimed film *Angles of the Universe* (2000), based on the award-winning book by the same name, written by Einar Már Guðmundsson, who wrote this year's reading aloud book in the adult category.



