



Multilingual Children's Bookshop

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## Short Story in Hungarian Wins 2013 Rainbow Caterpillar Multilingual Kid Lit Award

*Competition open to short stories for young children, aims to support the preservation in Canada of mother languages*

**Toronto, Ontario, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013** – Rainbow Caterpillar Bookshop is proud to announce that a short story in Hungarian is the winner of the 2013 Rainbow Caterpillar Multilingual Kid Lit Award. *When the Sun Dies*, by Csilla Istok, was selected from a short list of three finalists by a panel of language and industry experts.

“There were a number of excellent submissions this year, which made it necessary to go to two rounds of judging,” says Happie Testa, co-owner of Rainbow Caterpillar Bookshop, the sponsor of the Award. “By encouraging authors to write in their mother language, we want to help create a vibrant literary production for children in foreign languages, but with a uniquely Canadian perspective.”

The competition is open to unpublished short stories for children written in languages other than English by a Canadian resident. The winner will receive the Rainbow Caterpillar Multilingual Kid Lit Award in the amount of \$750. The finalists and other deserving submissions will also be recognized.

The 2013 Finalists and Honourable Mentions are:

### **Finalists:**

*Blackie and the Glacier* – Russian, by Sergo Akchurin; *Virginia and the Forgotten Teacup* - Italian by Viviana Laperchia.

### **Honourable mentions:**

*Flowers in My Shoes* – Arabic, by Ahmad Marouf; *The Wonderful Furoshiki* – Japanese, by Mari Okumura

“We hope this award also encourages parents to pass their mother language on to their children raised in Canada,” says Hanoosh Abbasi, co-owner of Rainbow Caterpillar.

The Award, generously hosted and supported by the Canadian Ethnic Media Association (CEMA), was presented at the 35th CEMA Annual Awards Gala on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Award received submissions in eight languages. The stories received were reviewed by a panel of language experts which selected the finalists, the shortlisted stories were then reviewed by a panel of publishing industry experts tasked with selecting the winner.

Language Expert Judges



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**Kate Holland** – *Assistant Professor, Russian*; **Roberta Iannacito Provenzano** – *Associate Professor, Italian*; **Gianna Patriarca** – *Poet and Author, Italian*; **Júlia Rajcsányi Ciamarra** – *Teacher and Artist, Hungarian*; **Ana Paula Ribeiro** – *Teacher and Author, Portuguese*; **Walid Saleh** – *Professor, Arabic*; **Daniela Sanzone** – *Writer and Journalist, Italian*; **Carmela Shehadi Mishaiel** – *University Lecturer and Author, Arabic*; **Eva Tomory** – *University Lecturer, Hungarian*; **Keiko Tsurusaki** – *Early Childhood Educator, Japanese*.

### Industry Expert Judges

**Jean Ludlam** – *Librarian*, **Anne Millyard** – *Publisher*, **Catherine Rondina** – *Writer*

### About Csilla Sakura Istok

Csilla-Sakura Istok is a Canadian-born writer, editor, translator, and English teacher based in Toronto. She spent much of her childhood with her Hungarian grandmother, who taught her to speak, read, and write in Hungarian. Csilla's Japanese-born mother, Sachiko, encouraged her to write from an early age. The story, *When the Sun Dies*, is based on a conversation Csilla had with her daughter. Csilla was so moved by it that she immediately wrote it down as a story. Her friend, Tatiana, encouraged her to submit the story for the Rainbow Caterpillar Kid Lit Award. Csilla's favourite activities include travelling, learning languages, and playing with her two children, Timea, 8, and Tobi, 4.

### About Rainbow Caterpillar Multilingual Bookshop

Rainbow Caterpillar Multilingual Bookshop imports and distributes children's books in a number of languages from around the world to meet the needs of Canadian parents and the public in general.

Rainbow Caterpillar offers books and other materials in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and more languages. The materials offered range from illustrated books to interactive talking books, books with CDs, DVDs and even games that make it fun and easy to keep home languages alive. Rainbow Caterpillar also prides itself in supporting Canadian authors by seeking out and importing Canadian titles translated into foreign languages.

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