

## New books for children summer 2022

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VHO - Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House has just introduced a trio of publications for children on the occasion of June 1 and welcoming summer 2022, including Swallowing Seeds That Grow Trees (author Lam Linh), Mr. Candy (Quynh Tran) and Hip Hop in the Land of Ellsaby (Isabelle Müller).



Three new works for young readers

The novel Mr. Candy is the debut work of author Quynh Tran (born in 2007) introduced by Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House this summer. The story begins with the appearance of the largest candy store in town and its owner is Mr. Candy. The little girl Wendy (12 years old) and her thoughts of psychological struggle against the allure of the candy world from Mr. Candy who is invading this town. Always accompanying Wendy is her best friend since kindergarten named Albert... Strange things started happening since the week after Mr. Candy moved in, the children started to go missing. First Lucy, Frank, Besty, then Micheal, Jessica, Roy, Homer... without a missing person notice, or a police officer being sent. Wendy's suspicions grew, she began to secretly follow the abnormalities at Mr. Candy's store. In the middle of Halloween night, Wendy is terrified when her missing schoolmate Gilbert shows up at her house, about to turn into candy, mushy and melting...



The child author's debut novel contains gentle lessons behind the story of candy.

Although candy is a sweet and attractive world for children's childhood, nothing is cheap or free forever, and there are also harmful effects of candy if children do not take care of their teeth properly. The story of Mr. Candy is a gentler metaphor for the evil plots against innocent and immature children.

Swallowing seeds to grow trees by Lam Linh is a collection of short stories that seem to be for children, but is loved by adults. This book was written in 2021, when the epidemic caused all work to stagnate, people were quarantined, and Lam Linh also had to work from home. And when witnessing children having to stay within the four walls of a narrow house, making friends with computers, televisions and the internet, the author recalled his childhood. That was the time of "ration stamps" subsidy, very different from the children of today. The friends around were the neighbors, natural plants, domestic animals... A time that was difficult but full of childhood joy, allowing us to imagine many interesting things about the world.



The book is the author's reminiscences about his life and childhood.

Through this small book, readers seem to see before their eyes memories filled with joy and sadness, regret; a childhood sky of freedom to fly, experience nature, close to plants, animals of children in the past. Sympathizing with today's children living in material conditions with plenty of room but lacking creative play space, the author wrote this book to recall the life and childhood he experienced.

The book *Hip Hop in the Land of Ellsaby* was born from a very private reason. For many years, Isabelle Müller (the author of the book) has lived in a small village in the State of Baden-Württemberg, where everyone knows each other. More than twenty years ago, when the beloved dog of a neighbor girl who lived right next to Isabelle's house suddenly passed away. It was understandable that a cute animal passed away due to old age, but what made everyone worried was the psychological state of the little owner. From that moment on, the little girl became depressed and seemed to have lost the joy of life.

Since there was very little suitable children's literature at that time on the themes of "farewell" or "death", Isabelle Müller decided to write a story to read to her. From this desire to soothe her soul, *Hip Hop in the Land of Ellsaby* was born. The story revolves around the close friendship between a dog named Titus and a little flea named Hip Hop.



The book is the author's recollections of his life and childhood

Author Isabelle Müller says: "I think it is important to introduce so-called "difficult topics" to children from an early age. Everyone, including children, has fears. The fear of the finiteness of life is probably the biggest fear. I believe that talking/reading about it is a good way to develop a sense of understanding, that death is also a part of life. Anyone who learns to accept life in general, with its pleasant and unpleasant moments, will gain insight into infinity.

By integrating these topics into children's education, they are no longer taboo. Instead, they become a normal part of our existence. Only those who see life in its entirety can feel infinity. And even if you sometimes have reasons to despair, never lose hope, because black is just black. If you want to see it in black. This is my message in this book."

In 2001, Krone Publishing House (Germany) published this story. Since then, Isabelle has often received letters from child therapists and bereavement support associations expressing their gratitude for the book's subtle help in helping children to overcome grief. It is not only a support for those who have lost a beloved pet. It also brings comfort to children who are grieving the loss of loved ones.