



ASTRID LINDGREN

Astrid Lindgren was born on the 14th November 1907, in a village close to Vimmerby.

A quote from when Astrid got her first book, Snowwhite's Christmas calendar..

"When I was a child books were rare, you got one a year. And the first book I had was called 'Snowwhite's Christmas Calendar 1911' It had little Snowwhite on the cover, by Jenny Nyström, with long black hair and a little red hat, and I thought it was something wonderfully pretty. And when you then opened it there were wonderful tales, I thought so anyway. I had that book and I learnt it by heart, to the very last word."

The first time she was published was at age 13, when she won a short story competition in the local newspaper. At the age of 17 she started working as a journalist. On the 4th December 1926 she gave birth to her first child, a son, Lars. She could not take care of him alone, as long as she's studying, so he went to stay temporarily with a foster family in Copenhagen. Astrid travelled as often as she could to visit Lasse in Denmark, awaiting a more settled situation with the possibility of taking him home. She moved to Stockholm to become a secretary.

Lasse's foster-mother became ill, and Astrid went to Copenhagen to fetch her son home. At first he was cared for by Astrid's roommate in Stockholm. Astrid Ericsson married Sture Lindgren in spring, 1931. They moved into a two-bedroom flat and Astrid becomes a housewife. She brought Lasse home and enjoyed being a close mother.

"She was not one of those mothers who sat still in the park on a bench and watched her children play. She wanted to play too and I suspect she thought it was just as much fun as I did!"

Astrid gave birth to a second child, Karin, in 1934. Her first book was "Britt-Mari unburdens her heart". The breakthrough was, Pippi Longstocking in 1944. She came up with the story when her daughter Karin was ill and asked her mother to read a fairy tale. Karin told her mother to tell the story about Pippi Longstocking. Astrid thought the story up sitting by her daughter's bed.



Then she wrote The six Bullerby children, Emil, Rasmus and Tramp, The children on the Troublemaker street and Karlsson on the Roof, Mardie, The brothers Lionheart, Mio my son among others.



A lot of Astrid's books have been translated to more than 90 other languages. She has written more than 40 books. The last one was Ronja- the robber's daughter, published in 1986. After that Astrid had really bad eyesight and she spend a lot of time answering letters.

Astrid has, throughout the years, received letters from the whole world, on average 150 letters a week. And she was of the opinion that all letters should be answered, especially when they had been written by children.

She was really committed in a lot of different issues such as animal care and abuse of children. She wrote several debate articles which led to the law against hitting children in 1979.

Astrid Lindgren is one of the most popular children's writers, both in Sweden and in the world, and during her lifetime she was awarded dozens of international prizes for her work. But she never got the Nobel literature prize.

In 1996 The Russian Academy of Science requests the newly discovered asteroid No. 3204 to be named after Astrid Lindgren.

"From now on you must call me Asteroid Lindgren" declared Astrid Lindgren"

from "Astrid Lindgren - a biography"
By Margareta Strömstedt

In 1998 Astrid Lindgren's Children Hospital was opened, named in her honour. It is one of the biggest children hospitals in northern Europe

Astrid Lindgren died in 2002. She was and is grieved by many. When she was on her way of being buried several hundred thousand people stood along the streets in Stockholm to give her a last farewell.

Source:

www.astridlindgren.se

www.dn.se

Wordlist: for week 47

Rare: sällsynt

Several: flera

Published: publicerad

Committed: hängiven, engagerad

Competition: tävling

Issues: frågor, ämnen

Give birth: födde

To grieve; att sörja

Temporarily: tillfälligt

Along: längs med

Throughout: genom

Tale; berättelse, saga

Average: genomsnitt, medel

Buried: begravd

Opinion: åsikt

breakthrough: genombrott

TASKS

Answer the questions please;

1. Who came up with the name Pippi Longstocking?

2. What was the name of the first book Astrid received?

3. What did Astrid think of her first book?

4. What was your first book? What did you think of it?

5. Tell about Lars Lindgren's childhood.

6. What book was the last one Astrid wrote and why was it the last one?

7. Which of Astrid's books is your favourite and why. Write in your blue book and also write a short summary of the plot.

8. Choose your favourite Astrid character and describe him/her as closely as possible. Why do you like this character? Write in your blue book.

Finish this far for week 47.

9. *EXTRA* Make your own wordlist with more words from the text.

10. *EXTRA* Read more about Astrid and write a text with more facts in your blue book.

11. *EXTRA* Translate the text about Astrid Lindgren to Swedish in your blue book.

12. *EXTRA* Make an analysis of the characters that Astrid has created. Do they have anything in common?

13. *EXTRA* The themes in Astrid's books are often of a serious matter. Give example of life issues that she has written about.

Choose at least two of the tasks marked with EXTRA. Finish them by week 48.