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Glückschuh Verlag



Children´s Book: Sandor – The Bat with Brains

Language: German
 Author: Dorothea Flechsig
 Illustrations by Christian Puille
 112 pages (12,5 x 19,5 cm)
 with over 30 colour Illustrations
 With an afterword about bats.
 70.900 Signs, From age 6
9.500 Copies sold

Children´s Book:

Sandor – Sandor saves the day , 3

Language: German
 Author: Dorothea Flechsig
 Illustrations by Katrin Inzinger
 140 pages (12,5 x 19,5 cm)
 with over 30 colour illustrations
 with an afterword about child psychologists
 92.200 Signs, From age 6
3.500 Copies sold

Awards:GRANDIOS, BÜCHER-Magazin;
 LesePeter

Sandor – Adventures in Transylvania, 2

Language: German
 Author: Dorothea Flechsig
 Illustrations by Christian Puille
 121 pages (12,5 x 19,5 cm)
 with over 30 colour Illustrations . With an
 afterword about Transylvania
 76.800 Signs, From age 6
7.500 Copies sold

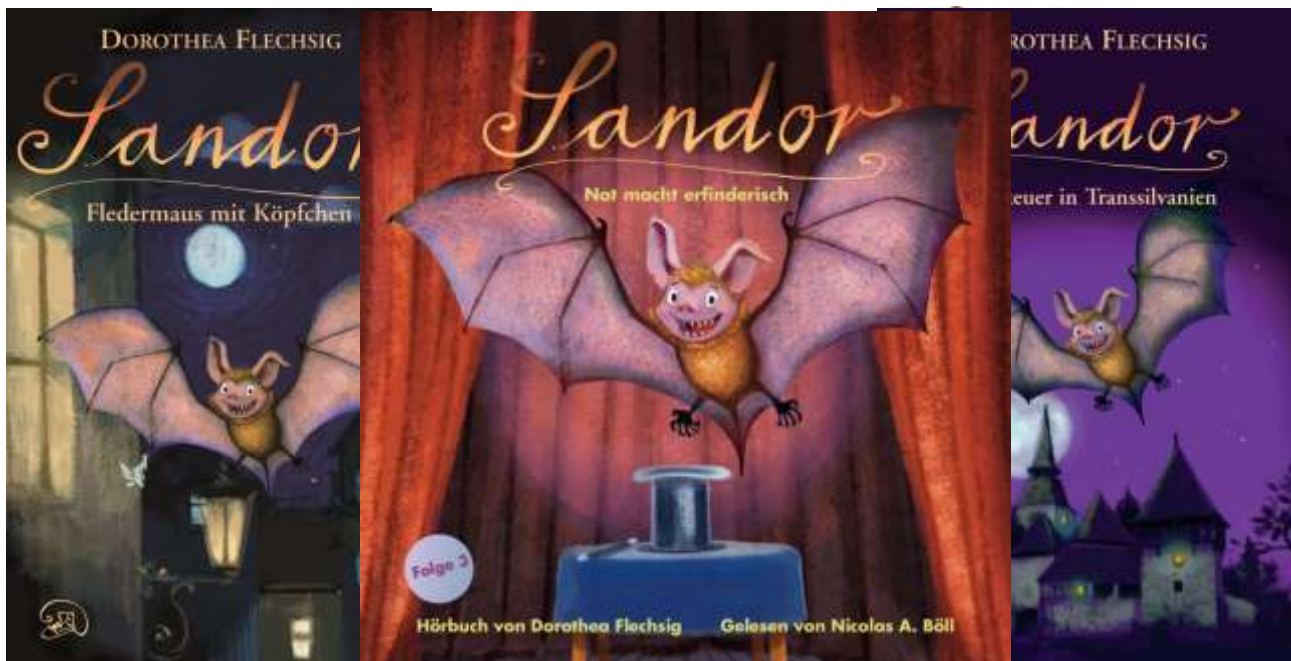
Licences (all 3 Books) sold:

Spanish Language version, North, Central and
 Latin America

Extras:Title song and recordings in German
 Accompanying workbook for schools, 52
 pages



Brief review: Sandor is a large noctule bat from Transylvania. A talking bat with a crooked left ear. Sandor lives all alone in the furthest corner of the classroom in an old blind box. A boy called Jendrik sits directly below him. He´s not good at school and is often made fun of by his classmates. – Sandor makes friends with him. Together they have many adventures.



A story of an unusual friendship, which fires children’s desire to read!

Sandor is a young bat – to be exact he’s a noctule bat. His distinguishing feature is a crooked ear – and what’s more he can speak and read! This little mammal lives in a blind box in a classroom, directly above where Jendrik sits, a boy whose bad marks are his trademark. Of course Sandor and Jendrik make friends in the first book **”The Bat with Brains”**. The pair becomes involved in wild adventures. There are shady characters to unmask and a treasure chest to discover. The clever bat helps shy Jendrik become more confident, as well as helping him to do better at school.

Sandor is the best travelled bat in the whole of Europe!

No wonder that the bat wants to show his best friend where he comes from. In the second book, **“Adventure in Transylvania.”** Jendrik uses his finder’s reward from the treasure to go on holiday with Sandor. In Romania they follow a thief. They go through church fortresses, secret passages and dark forests. On their manhunt, the boy and the bat make a strong team, even when their adventurous chase takes a surprising turn at the end.

Back in Germany, the excitement continues in the third book **“Necessity is the Mother of Invention”**. There’s a new teacher at school, and Jendrik’s parents face him with a difficult choice. Luckily Jendrik has his faithful friend Sandor, the clever bat, who helps him make a good decision and who knows that sometimes even grown-ups need a little help with life’s big important decisions.

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Reviews

“Recommended everywhere” by the **ekz library service**.

“Highly recommended” by the **Stiftung Lesen** (reading foundation) and the **working group for youth literature and media, of the Union for Education and Science**

List of the Best in Book Magazine 07/2012

Promotes values such as community, tolerance, friendship and responsibility.

Coburger Tageblatt

Who wouldn't like a bat friend like Sandor who can help in tricky situations?

Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung

BOOKSELLER OPINIONS

Sandor has made a lasting impression! The little, talking bat and his human friend Jendrik have gently and lovingly raised our awareness of everyday problems and challenges. A valuable story with captivating illustrations.

Klingberg bookstore, Freiburg

We recommend Sandor, whether you read it aloud, to yourself, or listen to it! A little jewel of a book, from a little jewel of a publisher, in the big book market!

Monika Kremer bookstore, Haren

With Sandor the talking bat, a delightful character has romped into the world of children's books. Sandor's adventures are imaginative and exciting, and are definitely recommended!

Rieman bookstore, Coburg



Sample chapter from part 1 “The Bat with Brains”

Chapter 1 A noisy place to sleep

“Not again!” thinks Jendrik. “Where’s that strange noise coming from?” Jendrik looks all around, but can’t see anything.

His class teacher Mrs. Schmidt gives him a stern warning: “Jendrik, please stop snapping your fingers! Put your hand up if you know the answer. And if you haven’t got anything to say, please be quiet!”

“It wasn’t me!” protests Jendrik. Mrs. Schmidt simply turns round and carries on with the lesson.

Jendrik sits at the very back of the classroom. Sandor lives in the old roller blind right above his head.

When Sandor chose this sleeping place, he had no idea what was in store for him. It was the school holidays, so nice and quiet all day long.

But all at once, his peace and quiet was gone. Suddenly, a bell rang early every morning and a hoard of children stormed into the school, chattering and yelling at the tops of their voices.

Sandor wanted to move out straight away! But then he heard it for the very first time: a very peculiar noise that thrilled him to the core.

The squeaking of chalk on the blackboard. The noise sets Sandor’s teeth on edge. It makes his tummy tingle, his claws itch and his wingtips tickle.

So Sandor decided to stay.

“Tut, tut. Click click! So they snap with their fingers? Fancy having hands that are good for snapping but not flying!” thinks Sandor quietly. Hanging upside down, he peeps through a gap and watches the whole classroom.

Sandor is a bat. A rather strange, but very clever bat. Sandor can read and do sums, perform breath-taking aerobatics and tell wonderful stories.

Sandor always tries to be as quiet as a mouse so that nobody notices him. But sometimes when he dozes off, he accidentally snarls and makes noises. The teacher always thinks poor Jendrik is snapping his fingers.



How Sandor has learnt to read and do sums is quite easy to explain. Dreamily dozing or half asleep, he occasionally squints down through his gap. Sometimes with the right eye, sometimes with the left. He has been following the lessons so long that he knows each subject by heart. He was having such fun at school, he preferred to sleep at night so that he could watch everybody in the classroom during the day.

Of all the children, Jendrik is Sandor's favourite. Jendrik is best at making the squeaky noise on the blackboard. And also Jendrik is very often alone. Just like him.

"Today we will be practising direct speech!" says Mrs. Schmidt. She goes round the classroom passing out an exercise sheet.

Jendrik has no idea what to write. Whenever a teacher speaks to him, Jendrik's heart starts to thump loudly.

Sandor looks down at his dark blonde hair. He watches Jendrik. He sees his empty exercise sheet and his pencil case, which has a picture of a bat on it. Sandor likes that.

"Open quotation marks. Hello, here I am! Exclamation mark. Close quotation marks! That is a sentence in direct speech!" calls out Sandor.

But nobody asks him. Nobody knows he's there in the classroom.

Chapter 2 Jendrik gets a detention



"Come on, hurry up, we're really late!" shouts Jendrik's mother Freya angrily. Jendrik's little brother Tom wanted to make hot milk by himself, but let it boil over and scalded his finger.

Yet again, it's five minutes to eight when Jendrik and Tom jump into their rusty car. "Typical! The old banger would choose today not to start!" grumbles Jendrik.

His mother turns the key again. The motor splutters. Jendrik's mother Freya is a single parent, as his dad lives far away in Norway. He owns his own car workshop.

"I'm sure he could fix the car," thinks Jendrik. "Everything is definitely better in Norway, and I wouldn't have old Mrs. Schmidt as my teacher."

Jendrik leans his head sadly against the windowpane. Finally, the engine starts up and his mother speeds off. The familiar houses whizz past. "It's too late now anyway!" he murmurs.

Like a whirlwind, his mother hurtles down the hill, turns right and – crash, bang, wallop – that's when it happens. She crashes into the back of a big car.

“Bother!” groans his mother. An older man gets out. “Are you mad? You must be blind, this is a 20 mph zone.” Jendrik raises his eyebrows. “That’s all we need!”

“No, I insist on calling the police,” Jendrik hears the older man say outside. He fetches a mobile phone out of his jacket pocket and types slowly.

His mother comes back to the car and rummages through the glove compartment. “Hey, have you seen my glasses? Quick, I’m supposed to wear glasses for driving.”

Typical. She’s forgotten her glasses. Freya goes over to the Audi driver. “You wouldn’t have a pair of glasses, by any chance?” she asks him nervously. The older man looks at her in bewilderment. “Why do you need a pair of glasses?” “I am supposed to wear glasses for driving. If the police arrive and I’m not wearing any, I’ll be in big trouble.”

The man shakes his head. “So why, young lady, aren’t you wearing your glasses?” He fetches some very large, brown, horn-rimmed glasses from his Audi. “Here you are. But I want them back later.”

Just then, the police arrive on the scene. “Your name?” asks one of the police officers. Jendrik’s mother answers obediently: “Freya Franke!” Tom grins. “Mum looks ridiculous in those grandad glasses,” he whispers.

His mother is short-sighted. But now she is wearing glasses with lenses for long-sightedness and, during the conversation with the police, she is almost as blind as a bat.

Jendrik is sometimes ashamed of his mother. “You’re embarrassing!” he then says and longs for a normal, ordinary mother who doesn’t stand out the way his mother does. But when he imagines exchanging Freya for another mother, he realises he wouldn’t want anyone else.

The police officer holds out forms to Jendrik’s mother. “Where do I sign?” she asks hesitantly. “Here, here and here!” answers the police officer. Freya turns slightly to the side. She pushes the glasses right to the end of her nose, peers over the top and looks at the paper for a long time before finally signing. Finally, they are allowed to continue their journey.

Freya curses and Tom plays with Draco, his plastic dragon. “Are we really poor now? Has the accident left us with no money?” asks Tom anxiously.

Well, actually it’s not Tom asking, but his toy dragon Draco. Tom holds Draco next to his mother’s headrest, waves him about and disguises his voice.



“Take Draco away, don’t distract me whilst I’m driving. We were already broke before the stupid accident. So what? Don’t worry about it.”

Now the car is rattling even more. “Please don’t drive right up to the school in this rust bucket. Stop at the corner,” orders Jendrik. But Freya drives right up to the school entrance.

There is nobody to be seen. Jendrik jumps out, grabs his jacket and throws his rucksack over his shoulder. If only he had come by bike. Taking long strides, he hurries into the school building.

It is silent in the corridor. There is a smell of citrus detergent as Jendrik passes the toilet doors. Only his steps can be heard. The soles of his trainers squeak on the grey-brown speckled linoleum floor. Hearing this noise, Sandor pricks up his ears before Jendrik even enters the classroom.

His classmates are reading a book. “Good morning, Jendrik. Overslept again, have we?” says Mrs. Schmidt. Jendrik sits down quickly in his seat. “You will stay back after lessons today. I will give you some extra work for the time missed!”

Mrs. Schmidt turns around and carries on with the lesson. Friedrich grins at Jendrik mischievously. And what does Jendrik do? He angrily sticks his tongue out at him, just as Mrs. Schmidt turns around again.

“What is going on, Jendrik? Why do you keep interrupting the lesson?” “I can’t stay late at school today,” answers Jendrik. “I’ve got to pick my brother up from the nursery!”

“Babysitter, babysitter!” yells Friedrich loudly. There is lots of fidgeting in the classroom. Jendrik threatens Friedrich with his fist. “Shut your mouth!”

Mrs. Schmidt is now really cross. “Quiet! Friedrich, sit down and be quiet, otherwise you will get a detention today as well!” Jendrik is annoyed. At his mother, at Mrs. Schmidt, at the whole world.

Hanging above Jendrik in the roller blind, Sandor senses that Jendrik is sad and angry. He spreads out his wings and makes an ugly face at Mrs. Schmidt. Baring his two long teeth, he snarls and rolls his eyes at her gruesomely. “Tut, tut. Click click!”



Chapter 3 An unusual visitor

Finally, the bell rings. Jendrik stays seated. “Have fun!” gloats Friedrich with obvious amusement and leaves the classroom. The other children also start to make their way home.

Lilly is wearing her thick hair in a pretty ponytail again today. She sits right in front of Jendrik in class. This is great as it means Jendrik can watch her all the time without her noticing.

“Bye,” says Lilly kindly. Jendrik doesn’t know how to react and rummages in his pencil case as if he is looking for something.

Mrs. Schmidt calls him to her desk at the front. “So you’ve got to pick up your little brother today?”

“Yes, my mum’s working late!” Mrs. Schmidt fetches the register.

“OK. In that case, you can go now, but I want you to write a few sentences on the subject: Things I can do to make sure I’m not late for school.”

Jendrik answers hesitantly: “Yes, OK.” He turns around and runs along the school corridor with heavy squeaking steps.

Sandor is wide-awake. He watches Jendrik walking across the playground and flies after him secretly, all the while performing acrobatic stunts in the air. One minute he’s doing a double somersault, the next minute he’s nose-diving at turbo speed towards the tarmac before zooming up again like a rocket.

Sandor really wants to follow Jendrik without attracting attention, but he can’t help himself. It’s his idea of heaven to fly like a world champion, snacking on any fly or mosquito that crosses his path. He’s happy because today’s the day he will make friends with Jendrik.

When Jendrik turns into the long street with the “Dandelion Nursery” at the end, his brother Tom is already sitting on the steps, bored of waiting. “Finally!” he shouts and runs towards Jendrik beaming happily.

Sandor hangs upside down in a tree, directly above Jendrik and Tom. But the two brothers do not look up. They make their way home.

“Will you make me fish fingers?” pleads Tom. “Only if we have any, and you promise to peel the potatoes.” Tom agrees and grins.



Jendrik and Tom live in a flat round the back of a house on Acacia Street. Their flat only has three rooms, plus a little kitchen and a light-blue bathroom. Since Jendrik and Tom each have their own bedroom, their mother sleeps in the living room on a pull-out couch.

Right in front of Jendrik's window is a huge apple tree with the juiciest and most delicious apples in the entire world.

Sandor clings by his claws to a branch of the tree and looks through the window. He watches the two brothers bustling about in the kitchen and sees Jendrik running backwards and forwards. Tom is sitting at the kitchen table trying to peel potatoes. "The funny peeler isn't working," grumbles Tom. "Then lay the table!" says Jendrik and rummages for the fish fingers in the freezer. Sandor gradually starts to feel restless, but still he waits.

After dinner, Tom is picked up by Mrs. Hellwig and his friend Paul to go to sports club.

Jendrik then sits at his desk, which is next to the window in his bedroom, and gazes thoughtfully at the apple tree. Sandor does not move. Although Jendrik is looking directly towards Sandor, he does not see the little brown bat amongst the green foliage.

Jendrik opens his window wide, sits back on his chair and broods over an empty white sheet of paper.

Sandor seizes the opportunity. He flies over to the window, grabs the top of the window frame with the claws of one foot, and scratches himself behind his crooked ear with the other.

"It's really not that difficult!" he declares.

Jendrik is wide-eyed with astonishment. He turns round. But nobody is there. He stands up from his chair and leans out of the window.

"Up here! Look up!" calls Sandor.

"Wow! I don't believe it!"

"But it's true. It really is easy. That homework – it's a piece of cake. I'll help you!"

Jendrik slumps down into his chair. He has never heard a bat speak, let alone a bat claiming that his homework is a piece of cake.

"I know you from school," says Sandor. "What? From school?" stammers Jendrik.



“Yes, you could say I live right above your head, in the old roller blind! I’ve been living there for ages.”

Flabbergasted, Jendrik looks at the little brown animal. “Since when can bats speak? And who are you?!”

“My name is Sandor, with an S. I am a noctule bat, I was born in Transylvania and I have a crooked left ear. But I have excellent hearing and can pick up any bat call. At the beginning, I found it difficult to fly during the day, what with all the noise and confusion. But now I’m an expert, and I’ve even changed my eating habits. These days, I usually go hunting over the rubbish dump. I can catch plenty of flies and insects there, even during the day.”

“Yuck! Over the rubbish dump!” repeats Jendrik. “Well, if you bought me mealworms and fed them to me, I wouldn’t need to go fluttering around there,” points out Sandor, grinning cheekily from ear to ear. “What? Mealworms? Where am I supposed to get mealworms from?” “You get them in the fishing shop. Any kid knows that.”

Sandor giggles so loudly and piercingly that Jendrik has to laugh too. “And how did you learn to speak?”

“At your school!” replies Sandor proudly. “And I can read too. But not write. You see...” Sandor stretches out and waggles the single tiny thumb at the end of each wing. “How on earth am I supposed to hold a pencil without any fingers?” he asks Jendrik.

“No idea!” Jendrik shrugs his shoulders. He is still stunned and utterly confused. “Please stretch out your left arm and your left index finger!” Jendrik does as he is told.

Sandor flies up to him, clings to his index finger by his claws and now hangs upside down right in front of Jendrik’s face.

“Good. Now get your pen out!” Jendrik looks closely at the bat.

Up close, he looks quite funny, thinks Jendrik. With his little, round, brown button eyes, Sandor looks directly into Jendrik’s eyes. Sandor has big long ears, little pointed teeth, a shiny brownish-pink nose and a velvety tummy with shiny golden brown fur.

“Get your pen out!” repeats Sandor. “I will tell you what to write for Mrs. Schmidt. ”

With his free hand, Jendrik rummages for the pen in his pencil case.

“You’d better start with: Dear Mrs. Smith,” instructs Sandor. “Teachers always like to be addressed politely.”



Obediently, Jendrik writes “Dear Mrs. Smith” in neat handwriting on his piece of paper. Sandor twitches his crooked ear and thinks for a moment.

“I think my arm’s going to fall off, I can’t hold you for much longer,” laughs Jendrik.

“OK, keep writing: To avoid being late for school again, comma, it would be a good idea to set the alarm clock 15 minutes earlier, full stop. I must hurry on the way to school and not dawdle so much in the mornings, full stop. I should also pass on this advice to the other members of my family, comma, so that my brother does not arrive late for nursery, full stop. Finished. That’s exactly three sentences. That should be enough.”

Jendrik tries with all his might to write neatly with the right hand. He already has cramp in his left arm, which he has been holding in front of him the whole time.

Just then, the front door slams shut and his mother calls loudly:

“Hello children, I’m home.” Her footsteps can be heard approaching.

“Right, I’ll be off. I can help you whenever you like. I’ll come and visit you again soon,” says Sandor.

“Yes, that would be great,” replies Jendrik.

Sandor flies off, and Jendrik gives his arm a shake. At that moment, his bedroom door opens. Jendrik’s mother comes in and squeezes Jendrik affectionately.

“Where is Tom?” “He always has sports club on Tuesdays,” replies Jendrik.

“Yes of course, I had completely forgotten.” She reads what Jendrik has written. “Oh dear, I’m sorry you were late for school today. I’ll write an excuse note for you right away. I like your idea that we should all set our alarm clocks to go off earlier.”

She kisses Jendrik on the forehead and tousles his hair.

“Hey Mum, I need to tell you something. Something strange has just happened. A bat suddenly flew up and...”

But then the telephone rang. “In broad daylight? It must have been a bird!” Jendrik’s mother closes the door and goes to answer the telephone.

“She probably wouldn’t have believed me anyway,” thinks Jendrik. “After all, it really is unbelievable. A bat that helps with homework!”



Contents of Volumes 1-3

Volume 1 “The Bat with Brains”

Separated from his colony, Sandor the bat lives alone in a school, hidden away in the box for a roller blind. He knows all the lessons off by heart. But little Jendrik, who sits right beneath him in the classroom, is really struggling with his schoolwork. Every time his teacher Mrs. Schmidt calls out his name, Jendrik’s heart races.



Sandor decides to get to know Jendrik and to help him. He tells Jendrik what to write, and the two become friends.

Success at school makes Jendrik a happier person. He gains self-confidence, finally dares to speak to his classmate Lilly, discovers that school can be fun and learns to learn by himself.



Sandor is happy that he is not alone anymore and that he can share his knowledge with Jendrik. He tells Jendrik when he sees a crook burying his stolen goods at the castle ruins. When Jendrik digs up the treasure trove and hands it in to the police, he is the centre of attention. He is even on the front page of the newspaper.

He is now a star at school. Only Jendrik’s classmate Friedrich is now even meaner than usual. And Jendrik’s mother is suspicious as to how Jendrik has found the treasure.



Jendrik senses that his mother is worried and decides to tell her the truth. But she does not believe his story about his strange friendship with a talking bat, feels overwhelmed and takes him to child psychologist Dr. Hans Belz. Jendrik is not happy at all!

From now on, Sandor must remain Jendrik’s big secret and he makes sure that nobody notices him.

Jendrik uses his reward for finding the stolen goods to pay for his first big trip abroad! Naturally, he chooses to go to Transylvania, Sandor’s native country! He is accompanied by his mother Freya, his little brother Tom and his child psychologist Dr. Hans Belz, who has become friends with Freya.



The book includes an afterword “Interesting facts about bats.”

Volume 2 “Adventures in Transylvania”

Jendrik would like his classmate Lilly to come on holiday with him, but Lilly’s parents forbid her from going. So Jendrik travels alone with his mother, his brother and his child psychologist.



There is excitement at the airport when Jendrik notices a man being stopped by security for carrying a weapon. The weapon is confiscated and the man is allowed onto the plane. Jendrik finds it all very suspicious.



The real adventure begins when they arrive in Transylvania! On visiting a fortified church, Jendrik sees the man from the airport again and attempts to hide from him, but only ends up hiding in the man’s van! The man doesn’t notice and drives off with Jendrik.



Once they have travelled deep into the Transylvanian mountains, we find out that the man, whom Jendrik thinks is the crook, is actually a policeman from the criminal investigation department. He is hot on the heels of the thief who buried the treasure in the castle ruins and who is now busily stealing valuables from churches throughout Romania.

The clever bat Sandor guesses the thief’s next move. Jendrik and Sandor bravely follow him through the Carpathian mountains on his way to carry out another spate of robberies.



Together with the child psychologist Hans Belz, Tom and a Roma family who witnessed Jendrik climbing into the strange van, Jendrik’s mother Freya sets off to find her son. Terribly worried about Jendrik, his mother and the child psychologist become even closer.

With ingenuity and a lot of nerve, Jendrik and Sandor continue to follow the crook and together they finally apprehend him in a castle, even before the police get there.

And, of course, there is an emotional reunion when Jendrik’s family arrive. Back at the guesthouse near the fortified church, Jendrik writes his friend Lilly a long letter. “Dear Lilly,” he begins. “Transylvania is beautiful and full of adventures! And our holiday has only just started...”



The book includes an afterword: “Interesting facts about Transylvania”.

Volume 3 “Sandor saves the day”

The third book in the Sandor series begins with the last few days in Romania. Up until now, the holiday here has been wonderful. But now the adults are arguing.

Jendrik’s mother feels ignored and patronised when Hans Belz chooses to side with Jendrik’s brother Tom, who desperately wants to take home a little dog he found on the side of a road. In Romania there are lots of stray dogs and it would definitely do Tom good to have a pet, says Hans. “But not in a small flat! A pet would just cause stress!” replies Freya, who is a single parent and frequently feels overwhelmed as it is.

When it then emerges that a dog must be examined by a vet several weeks before leaving the country, Hans once again oversteps the mark when he takes the dog to a vet and forges the date in the pet passport in front of the children. Freya is now really angry.

The forgery is not noticed during check-in, but the little puppy causes havoc during the flight.

Sandor is not feeling well either. Flying does not agree with him. It is not until Jendrik admits that he feels unwell too and the child psychologist hypnotises him (and inadvertently Sandor) that Sandor finally starts to feel better.

At the airport, Freya calls a taxi and says a cool goodbye to Hans. It is clear that he’s not coming home with them. Jendrik and his little brother Tom are very sad about this development, as they have become quite fond of Hans.

Back at home, they get a surprise visit! Jendrik’s father appears with his new wife. And, to the great surprise of the children, with a new baby! Jendrik and Tom are flabbergasted. “Why didn’t you tell the children?” asks their father. “Because that’s your job!” wails Freya.

Jendrik hurries back to his room. He slams the door shut behind him and tears pour down his face.

Jendrik’s father has also come to ask Jendrik if he would like to live in Norway with him and his new family. This is a difficult decision for Jendrik. In the past, he had always wished that he could live with his dad, but with Mum and Tom and not a new wife.



Sandor does not want Jendrik to move away. Nor does Lilly, when Jendrik tells her what has happened. But life at home isn't that easy at the moment, and maybe it wouldn't be such a bad idea just to leave?



The first school day after the holidays gets off to a hectic start. Jendrik is happy that he gets to sit next to Lilly. But that's the only good news. Rather than his old teacher Mrs. Schmidt, the headmaster is teaching the class. "Your class average is much too low. We need to raise the level of the class drastically!" he warns. The children must make notes, sit still, listen and get lots of homework. Apparently, Mrs. Schmidt is ill. But what is really going on?



Jendrik smuggles Sandor into the headmaster's office and Sandor eavesdrops on a conversation between Mrs. Schmidt and the headmaster. When the headmaster announced at a school conference that he wanted to focus more on achievement and student grades from now on, Mrs. Schmidt interrupted him and there was an argument. She is not ill, but wants to stand up for the weaker students. This is why they were arguing, and why she has been suspended by the headmaster.



Jendrik and Lilly decide to visit Mrs. Schmidt. She spends the whole afternoon with her young guests. Jendrik realises for the first time that his old teacher is a normal human being. She is funny and sometimes serious, does far more than just teach, has her own problems just like any other person and can do magic tricks! To stay

in contact with the class, she wants to set up a magic club. Jendrik and Lilly definitely want to join, as does Sandor when he hears about it.

But first Sandor has other things to do... Hoping to bring Hans and Freya back together, he flies to Hans' office. The clever bat knows that adults sometimes need extra help with difficult life decisions. He reprogrammes Hans' telephone so that every speed-dial number puts him through to Freya, and opens up all his psychology journals so that the titles reflect his own situation; titles such as



"Let's get back together!" as well as "Understanding the mystery of women", "20 tips for a good relationship", "It's not important to be right, but to be kind" and "It takes two to kiss and make up".

And he makes another discovery. Friedrich, the boy from Jendrik's class with the loudest mouth, is being treated by Hans Belz and has sessions with him. They talk about the rage in his stomach, how to deal with it without hurting others, where it



comes from and what to do to avoid getting angry in the first place. Sandor pricks up his crooked ear as far as it will go and listens: “Tut, click, click, this boy doesn’t seem well at all!” he thinks.

Sure enough, Sandor’s actions lead to Hans calling Freya. At first, she is cool towards him, but when he “dials the wrong number” for the third time, she begins to laugh and they arrange to meet. Jendrik and Sandor watch everything and are really happy.



When Hans arrives, he brings a photo album with the best photos of their holiday together, and they talk and laugh a lot. Sandor hangs in the apple tree in front of the open kitchen window and watches everything. He especially likes Hans’ story about a ghost who has been leaving magazines all around his flat.



Jendrik also joins in the conversation, and tells them about the problems at school. Hans has already heard about the headmaster from Friedrich and wants to do something. “If you don’t mind, I might write an article about this for the magazine,” he suggests. “The excessive amount of pressure on children to perform is a big issue at the moment! It can lead to fear of failure, lack of motivation, low self-confidence and noticeable behaviour such as fidgeting...”



Hanging in the apple tree, Sandor knows just how right Hans is. Jendrik used to be so nervous before school he would get tummy ache.

The magazine article by Hans is published and actually leads to a positive development. “Naturally a primary school should look after its weaker pupils,” comes the advice from on high, and Mrs. Schmidt gets her job back.

Sandor, Jendrik and his classmates are delighted. During a lesson with Mrs. Schmidt, all the children are allowed to suggest how lessons could be improved in future and, for the first time in his life, Friedrich enjoys taking part in class.



Back at home, Jendrik is on his own. Freya has gone out to dinner with Hans so that they can have a proper talk, Sandor is doing magic tricks and Jendrik is writing an e-mail to his father. “Dear Dad, I’ve made up my mind to stay her with Mum, Tom and my friends,” he writes. “I really hope you aren’t cross with me. We can still see each other. Hopefully more often than before. Much love. I look forward to seeing you. Jendrik.”

The book includes an afterword “Interesting facts about child psychologists”.