

Kathrin Schärer

The Town-Mouse and the Country-Mouse [Die Stadtmaus und die Landmaus]

Germany

TAGS: [Aesop](#) [Aesop's Fables](#) [Horace](#)



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General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	The Town-Mouse and the Country-Mouse [Die Stadtmaus und die Landmaus]
<i>Country of the First Edition</i>	Germany
<i>Country/countries of popularity</i>	Worldwide
<i>Original Language</i>	German
<i>First Edition Details</i>	Kathrin Schärer, <i>Die Stadtmaus und die Landmaus</i> . Düsseldorf: Patmos Verlag and KG Sauerländer, 2008, 32 pp.
<i>ISBN</i>	ISBN 9783794152933 (ISBN 978794151790 - 2nd edition)
<i>Genre</i>	Didactic fiction, Fables, Picture books
<i>Target Audience</i>	Children (4-6 year old)
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Creators



Kathrin Schärer , b. 1969 (Author)

Kathrin Schärer was born in Basel (Switzerland) in 1969. She studied to become a drawing / art and craft teacher at the Hochschule fuer Gestaltung (Art University) in Basel until 1995 and now works at a school for children with speech/language impairments. Since 2001, she has illustrated more than thirty children's picture and non-fiction books, a number of which she has also authored. Her books focus on animal figures. Her book *Wenn Fuchs und Hase sich Gute Nacht sagen* (*When Fox and Hare Wish Each Other Good Night*, 2004) was made into a play in 2010.

Among many other prizes, Kathrin Schärer's illustrations were selected for the Swiss contribution to the Biennale der Illustration (Biennial of Illustration) in Bratislava 2005 and 2007. 2010 Schärer was nominated for the Deutschen Jugendliteraturpreis (German Youth Literature Prize) for her book *Johanna im Zug* (*Joanna in the Train*). This book also won the Schweizer Kinder-und Jugendmedienpreis (Swiss Children's and Youth Media Prize) in 2011, and so did, in 2017, her book *Rigo und Rosa*. 2012 Schärer was nominated for the Christian Anderson Prize and in 2014 for the Astrid Lindgren Award for her collected works. Over 50, 000 copies of her book *mutig*, *mutig* (*brave, brave*) have been sold. Her books are not only popular in German speaking countries, but also abroad. Over 64 000 copies of her book *Wenn Fuchs und Hase sich Gute Nacht sagen* (*When Fox and Hare Wish Each Other Good Night*) have been sold in Japan. Her books have been translated into 14 languages: Japanese, Danish, French, Spanish, Catalan, Chinese, Dutch, Italian, English, Hebrew, Swedish, Thai, Arabic and Korean).

Source:

Official [website](#) (accessed: June 25, 2018).

Bio prepared by Babette Puetz, Victoria University of Wellington,
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Additional information

Translation	Dutch: <i>Stadsmuis en Veldmuis</i> , trans. L. M. Niskos, Rotterdam: Lemniscaat 2009.
	French: <i>A la ville et aux champs</i> , trans. Claire Teyras, Paris: Minedition 2014.
	French: <i>Souris-des-villes et Rat-des-champs</i> , trans. Bernard Friot, [Paris]: Bayard presse 2009.
	Italian: <i>Topo di campagna e topo di città</i> , trans. Andreina Speciale, Milan: Il Castoro, 2009, 2013.
	Japanese: <i>Hiroaki Sekiguchi</i> , Tōkyō: Mitsumurakyōikutoshō, 2011.
	Spanish: <i>El ratón de la ciudad y el ratón del campo</i> , Bogotá: Grupo Editorial Norma, 2010.

Summary	The town-mouse visits the country-mouse. She is scared of the cows and the rooster, dislikes the smell of the pigs and the wheat field stubble hurts her paws, but she loves the stars of the night sky, the food and the sunrise. Then the country-mouse visits the town-mouse. She is scared by the speed of the city, overwhelmed by the business and smells of the supermarket and frightened by a dog. She also is not used to eating so much. So her friend takes her to quieter streets and shows her the lights of the city, which the country-mouse enjoys. Then the town-mouse introduces the country-mouse to her friends and they party until late at night. The country-mouse very much enjoys watching the freight ships early in the morning, but decides it is time to go home because she misses it. She says that both country and city are nice, but for each their own. They hug and plan to visit each other again soon. Then the country-mouse departs.
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Analysis	The story is the retelling of Aesop's/Horace's fable (Horace <i>Sermones</i> 2.6) of the Town-Mouse and the Country-Mouse for 4-6 year old children, though set in modern times and with an updated moral (both mice agree that each likes best what they know, but both, country and city life, are equally good). At the end of the book, the ancient fable is
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printed in Latin and translated into German, with a brief explanation.

The ancient fable is retold (with beautiful illustrations), but set in modern times. What remains is the basic structure: the town-mouse visits the country-mouse, then the country-mouse visits the town-mouse and both experience the different food and life-styles of the other. The country-mouse feels overwhelmed by city-life and is scared when she sees a dog (who, in this version of the story, however, is on a lead and looks just as scared of the mice than the country-mouse is of him. The town-mouse is shown tickling his nose).

Classical, Mythological,
Traditional Motifs,
Characters, and
Concepts

[Aesop](#) [Aesop's Fables](#) [Horace](#)

Other Motifs, Figures,
and Concepts Relevant
for Children and Youth
Culture

[Adventure](#) [Animals](#) [Diversity](#) [Friendship](#) [Society](#)

