

Bokprovning 2026, English summary.

2025 marked a year of clear upward momentum. A total of **2,335 children's and young adult books** were received by the Swedish Institute for Children's Books in 2025, 153 more than the previous year, representing an increase of 7 per cent. This breaks with the downward and flattening trend that has characterised the past decade. Growth is particularly evident in picturebooks, non-fiction and young adult fiction, while publishing in middle-grade fiction, early chapter books and comics have remained broadly stable or declined slightly. Translated publishing rose by 10 per cent compared with 2024, driven chiefly by translations from English and the Nordic languages. At the same time, the number of books published directly in English also increased, with a substantial proportion consisting of easy-read titles and adapted classics.

This year's report includes in-depth articles on subjects such as children's literature awards, the self-financed debut author, forests in literature, and the vampire's return ... once again. In the article *From School Council to Dictatorship*, the report examines how narratives of despotism and democratic collapse recur throughout this year's publishing. Themes such as totalitarianism, the erosion of democracy and resistance appear both in realistic school-based narratives and in dystopian future fiction. In these stories, acts of resistance frequently underscore the importance of a free press and collective organisation.

Your Wish Is My Command explores explicit images, consent and problematic sexual relationships in young adult literature. Several books portray relationships in which intimate images are used in contexts shaped by manipulation or dependency. At the same time, young adult fiction also engages with discussions of precaution, consent and risk in digital relationships.

Åsa Warnqvist, Director and Head of Research at the Swedish Institute for Children's Books and a devoted comics enthusiast, takes a deep dive into *Desecration or Lifeblood? Cemeteries, Manga Myths and Reuse in Comics Publishing*, an examination of comics published in 2025 with a focus on cemeteries, the realm of the dead and creative reuse. She identifies death as a prominent motif in the year's comics publishing, with cemeteries, grave crosses and supernatural beings associated with death recurring across numerous narratives. The cemetery emerges both as an evocative setting and as a site of humour and demystification. At the same time, she highlights the comics field's reuse of older stories, characters and visual worlds, where new versions of established figures are viewed as part of the continuity of the medium.

Taken as a whole, **Bokprovning 2026** demonstrates a publishing landscape in which the increase in the number of titles coincides with a strong engagement with contemporary issues in literature. Democracy, power, sexuality and death are addressed across genres and age categories alike.