

The Symphony of Children's Literature Writers

By Zhang Xinyu

Chinese children's literature writers each shine with their unique brilliance. They share a profound love for the world of children and a deep sense of humanistic care. Using their pens as wings, they traverse the realms of reality and fantasy. From tales of orphaned wanderers in bygone days to the modern pursuit of childhood dreams, from grassland adventures to schoolyard anecdotes, from stories of female growth to explorations of ancient civilizations, their works span diverse themes and styles. Yet, all of them capture the pulse of children's growth with precision, nurturing young hearts with the power of words.

Chen Jiatong

Born in 1987, Chen Jiatong is a celebrated children's literature author and a winner of the Financial Times Best Children's Book of the Year Award. Known for his vivid imagination and meticulous logic, his acclaimed works include the *White Fox* series ("白狐迪拉"系列) and the *Dream Keeper* series ("造梦师"系列).



Chen's inspiration stems from childhood memories and a love for classic literature. As a child, he was captivated by *Journey to the West* (《西游记》) and *Harry Potter*, which fueled his desire to write. His works are deeply rooted in Chinese culture, incorporating elements within *the Monkey King* and *the Magic Brush of Ma Liang* to meet the reading needs of young audiences.

Chen's books have garnered international attention. *The Dream Keeper* series was selected by an international literary agency for the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2018. The second novel of the *White Fox* series, *White Fox in the Forest*, was published by Chicken House in the UK as the first middle-grade series ever translated from Chinese into English. Its German edition, published by Loewe Verlag, ranked 18th on the German *Börsenblatt* 2023 Children's Book List.

Yin Jianling

Born in 1971, Yin Jianling joined the China Writers Association in 1998. She has served as a council member of the 7th and 8th Shanghai Writers' Association, a member of the presidium for the 9th and 10th terms, a member of the 10th National Committee of the China Writers Association, the first Chairperson of the Jing'an District Writers' Association in Shanghai, and Vice President of the Chinese Children's Literature Research Association. Yin has received numerous prestigious awards, including the National Outstanding Children's Literature Award, the Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award, the Bing Xin Book Award Grand Prize, the 2015 China Good Book Award, and Taiwan's Open Book Award for Best Children's and Young Adult Literature. She was also nominated for the 2013 and 2014 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Awards, the world's largest prize for children's literature.



Yin's works, characterized by a distinctly feminine perspective, imagination, and precise and elegant writing style, explore the confusion, losses, joys and achievements of children's growth. She excels at delving into the hidden and complex psychological world of young readers. Grounded in reality with a unique viewpoint, her works feature diverse themes and a serene, poetic style filled with humanistic care. The media has praised her as a "spiritual growth confidant"

and "spiritual guide" for both children and parents.

In 2023, Yin released a new children's novel titled *Sailn* (《帆》), which portrays the legendary life journeys of two overseas Chinese women. The story intricately weaves a century-long history of Chinese migration with flashback narratives.

Qin Wenjun

Born in 1954, Qin Wenjun is an acclaimed children's literature author and recipient of the Chen Bochui International Children's Literature Award for Author of the Year. She currently serves as Vice Chairperson of the Shanghai Writers Association, a member of the National Committee of the China Writers Association, editor-in-chief of *Chinese Children's Literature* (《中国儿童文学》), and Deputy Director of the Children's Literature Committee of China Writers Association.



She has published over 6 million words across more than 50 works, including *The Complete Story of Jia Li* (《男生贾里全传》), *The Complete Story of Jia Mei* (《女生贾梅全传》), *Baby Takes Charge* (《宝贝当家》), and *The Mind Of A Girl* (《一个女孩的心灵史》). Her works have won more than 50 domestic and international awards, been adapted into over 10 film and television productions, and included in Chinese language textbooks. More than 10 of her books have been published in English, Japanese, German, Korean and Dutch editions.

In December 2024, Qin Wenjun released her latest novel, *Ballet in the Market* (《街市上的芭蕾》), published by Changjiang Children's Publishing Group. This realistic, inspirational children's novel vividly portrays contemporary children pursuing their dreams with warmth and authenticity. To create this work, Qin visited Yunan Province multiple times, conducting both online and on-site interviews with local children. The book took four years from conception to publication, during which she revised the manuscript three times, pouring immense effort into its creation.

Qin has increasingly focused on contemporary issues and children's development today. With a modern, civilized and forward-thinking perspective, she sheds light on the lives of children in distant, lesser-known regions.

Xu Tingwang

Born in 1971, Xu Tingwang is a renowned children's literature author, a member of the China Writers Association, and Vice Chairman of the Inner Mongolia Writers Association. He has published over 100 children's literature works, totaling more than 7 million words. His representative works include *Son of Wind* (《风之子》), *A Football Field in the Clouds* (《云端有个足球场》), *Returning Shadow Home* (《送绝影



回家》), *The Carved Saddle* (《雕花的马鞍》), and *Mother's River* (《额吉的河》). Xu began writing children's literature in 2003. To date, he has published nearly 70 books and numerous pieces in various magazines, amassing a total word count exceeding 5 million characters. His works cover diverse themes, such as adventure, detective stories, and regional and ethnic features. Characters in his works like Lin Buji, Yu Xiaolu, and Zhou Daqi are loved by young readers.

Xu has won multiple awards for his works. *Stories of Ten Mongolian Scientists* (《十大蒙古族科学家的故事》) received the Inner Mongolia Spiritual Civilization "The Best Work" Award. *A Football Field in the Clouds* was selected for the China Monthly Good Book list in 2023, *Son of the Wind* in 2022, and *Mother's River* in 2024. *Returning Shadow Home* was nominated among the top 30 titles in the 11th My Favorite Children's Books activity. Several of his works have been translated into Russian and Arabic. Currently, Xu is dedicated to creating children's literature with strong ethnic, regional, and animal themes.

In addition to his writing, he actively participates in literary events, sharing his creative insights and inspiring children to develop a love for literature.

Li Shanshan

Born in 1991, Li Shanshan is a children's literature author, a member of the China Writers Association, and a graduate of the 6th Children's Literature Writer Training Program at the Lu Xun Literary Institute. She currently serves as Director of the Children's Literature Committee of the Chongqing Writers Association and as a signed writer for the Chongqing Literature Institute. Her major works include the fairy tale *Bread Boy* (《面包男孩》), the novel *The Child Among the Sheep* (《羊群里的孩子》), the essay collection *The Little Tile House under the Micang Mountain* (《米仓山下的小瓦房》), the story collection *Today, Tomorrow, the Day After Tomorrow, and the Day After That* (《今天明天后天大后天》), and the poetry collections *The Sun Was a Boy* (《太阳小时候是个男孩》). Several of her works have twice been selected for the White Ravens list by the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany, and translated into English, Korean and Persian, gaining international recognition.



In 2023, her book *The Vessel Across Millennia* (《器成千年》) secured English translation rights, followed by Spanish rights in 2024. The work vividly presents the wonders of the Sanxingdui archaeological site, guiding young readers through 3,000 years of history alongside the protagonist, Dou Dou. The book allows children to experience the marvels of modern archaeological technology and the reemergence of ancient Shu civilization. Her work leaves young readers with a sense of joy and fulfillment, sparking their strong interest in reading. This book represents a significant creative breakthrough for the author, following her deep reflection and practical exploration of traditional cultural themes.