

Astrid Lindgren, Biography in short

1905 Astrid Lindgren's parents, Samuel August Ericsson and Hanna Jonsson, get married.

1907 Astrid Anna Emilia is born on 14th November at the parsonage in Näs, Vimmerby, second child to Samuel August and Hanna Ericsson.

1914 Astrid starts school.

1921 Astrid is good at writing and at the age of 13, one of her compositions is published in *Vimmerby Tidning*. After that, she gets the nickname "Vimmerby's Selma Lagerlöf".

1923 Astrid graduates from high school with top grades in Swedish. She is confirmed.

1924 Works as a volunteer at *Vimmerby tidning* a few years. At first she writes notices and reviews, does proofreading and answers the telephone. After only a short time she is also entrusted with the task of providing journalistic articles for the paper.

1926 Astrid gets pregnant, but does not wish to marry the child's father. She moves to Stockholm where she acquires qualifications as a secretary. In December her son Lars is born in Copenhagen. He spends his early years in the care of a Danish foster family. Astrid visits him there as often as she can.

1927 Works as a secretary in Stockholm.

1928 Begins working at KAK (The Royal Automobile Club) where she meets Sture Lindgren, her husband-to-be.

1930 Brings Lars home to Sweden. For the first few months, he lives with her in Stockholm, but after some time she takes him to Näs in Vimmerby, where he stays with his grandparents.

1931 Astrid and Sture are married on Easter Saturday. Astrid, Sture and Lars move into an apartment at No.12 Vulcanusgatan in Stockholm. This is the area in Stockholm where, several years later, Karlson on the Roof lives.

1933 Astrid Lindgren's first children's stories are published in *Stockholms-Tidningen* and in *Landsbygdens Jul*.

1934 Her daughter Karin is born and Astrid becomes a housewife. She enjoys being a housewife and mother but she also loves writing. She earns some extra money for the housekeeping by writing short stories for magazines.

1939 At the outbreak of the Second World War, Astrid begins to write a "War Diary". She works as secretary to Harry Söderman, Associate Professor in Criminology at Stockholm University, and learns a great deal about encryption, finger-printing and criminal technology. Her parents-in-law purchase the house in Furusund, which is to become Astrid Lindgren's summer residence for the rest of her life. This is where she wrote many of her books and film-scripts.

1940 Astrid is offered a top secret job at the Special Intelligence Agency in the mail-censorship office which gives her deep insight into the afflictions of war in the world. The assignment continues for the duration of the War.

1941 The family moves to No. 46 Dalagatan in Stockholm – the apartment where Astrid lived for the rest of her life. Her daughter Karin invents the name "Pippi Longstocking", and Astrid begins to tell stories about Pippi to Karin and her friends.

1944 Astrid puts the stories about Pippi Longstocking down on paper and gives them to Karin as a present for her 10th birthday. The publishing firm Bonniers also receives a copy but rejects the script. The publishing firm Rabén & Sjögren run a competition for authors of books for girls. Astrid makes her debut as author by winning 2nd Prize with *Britt-Mari lättar sitt hjärta*.

1945 Wins 1st Prize in the Rabén & Sjögren competition, Best Book for 6-10 year olds with a reworked manuscript for Pippi Longstocking. The book is released and becomes a great success with 20,000 copies sold in two weeks.

1946 In the autumn, Astrid Lindgren is employed as Publishing Editor with Rabén & Sjögren but keeps writing her own books as well, one after another.

1947 The first Astrid Lindgren film is made, Bill Bergson, Master Detective.

1948 Travels around in the United States for a month writing a travel column for the women's magazine, *Damernas Värld*. Her articles are later reworked into the first of three books about Kati, Kati in America.

1950 Becomes the first person to receive the Nils Holgersson Plaque.

1952 Her husband Sture Lindgren dies, only 53 years old.

1957 Astrid begins her collaboration with the director Olle Hellbom, in the making of the third Bill Bergson film. They made a total of 17 films together.

1958 Awarded the H.C. Andersen Medal, often called the "Nobel Prize for Children's Literature".

1961 Astrid's mother Hanna passes away at the age of 82.

1963 *Seacrow Island* is written as a TV series (before it becomes a book). The first book about Emil in Lönneberga is published.

1969 Astrid's father Samuel August passes away at the age of 94. Pippi Longstocking becomes a TV series, which turns into a great success.

1970 Astrid Lindgren retires from Rabén & Sjögren.

1971 Receives the Swedish Academy's Grand Gold Medal.

1973 *The Brothers Lionheart* is released just before Christmas and gives rise to lively debate among the critics.

1974 Astrid's brother Gunnar dies.

1976 In the spring, Astrid writes an article for debate in *Expressen* about Sweden's taxation policies. The ensuing debate contributes to the downfall of the Social Democratic government in the elections, held in the autumn.

1978 Receives the *Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels*, the German Booksellers' Peace Prize. "Never Violence!", her acceptance speech at the ceremony, stirs up debate which contributes to Sweden being the first country in the world to introduce a law against corporal punishment of children.

1981 The theme-park, Astrid Lindgren's World is founded in Vimmerby, under the name "*Sagobyn*" (Fairytale Village).

1985 Initiates a debate concerning the treatment of domestic animals in modern Swedish agriculture.

1986 Her son Lars dies.

1987 Astrid Lindgren celebrates her 80th birthday and the Ambassadors to Sweden from both the Soviet Union and USA pay tribute to her. The Swedish Prime Minister promises her a new animal protection law, "*Lex Lindgren*" as a birthday present.

1993 Astrid's last book is published, the picture-book *Jullof är ett bra påhitt, sa Madicken*.

1996 The children's culture and adventure centre, *Junibacken* opens on the Royal Island of Djurgården in Stockholm.

1997 Her little sister, Ingegerd dies. Astrid Lindgren turns 90. The government donates 7.5 million kronor (the same amount as for a Nobel Prize) to the foundation established for the preservation of Astrid Lindgren's works, for the erection of a building and for an exhibition about Astrid Lindgren.

2002 After a period of illness, Astrid Lindgren passes away on 28th January at her home in Dalagatan. The funeral service is held in the Great Church in Stockholm on 8th March – International Women's Day. She is later buried in the family grave in Vimmerby.