Hector's story is punctuated with the joy and sadness of life, his gentle and questioning nature throughout the narrative helps readers explore his experiences and reflect along with him as they happen. Hector's story is a great tool for the gentle exploration of difficult themes through a third party, as well as being a heart-warming tale. At Westminster Children's University we have seen first-hand the children's reactions to the story and the self-reflective comments it has elicited. The children have universally enjoyed and engaged with Hector and his journey. We offer dog mentoring alongside the workshops and find the text to be a complimentary tool in the mentoring process. A great way to explore themes and promote empathy for our amazing furry friend and others. We look forward to a long working relationship with the author and even more of Hector's adventures. Hector's most recent travels, as described in Hector and the Time Machine, are a whirl-wind visitation of the year 2020, touching on the key events of the year. Hector and his Friends Chang, Bubu, Ben, Tom and Dotti, to name but a few, discuss and explore key events from the year using Hector's innocent and questioning narrative. The tale encourages further exploration and discussion by offering a native animal's perspective of pivotal events. With the overriding themes of friendship, respect and relationships underlying the adventure, the book makes a great starting point for cross-curricular work.

Stella Wilson, Queen's Park Primary,
Manager of Westminster Children's University

Hector and the Time Machine is a fascinating children’s story with valuable insights, that teaches life lessons in a

fun way. The rich language and characters allow it to be easily imagined as a fantastic TV short film.

Nadia Gericke,
home ed mum of 8-year-old, dog lover,
owner of lovethepixels.com

Another well written, page-turning, book. A charming story about adventures around the world. Touching on important, real-life events in different countries through Hector's eyes. I particularly enjoyed the time travelling aspect and of course, the romantic in me was lured in by a rather interesting but seemingly successful first date. I look forward to reading this book with my daughter.

Zane Johnson, father of 9-year-old Chloe

Hector & the Time Machine. This follow up to Renata Kaminska's first book, 'Hector, A Dog's Story', sees our canine hero embarking on an incredible journey around the world by means of a time machine. The year is 2020, a difficult year for so many and Hector struggles to make sense of world events as he ventures into the unknown. The book touches on difficult issues as seen through the eyes of a dog, helping parents to raise these topics and discuss them with their children — the overriding message of the book is that respect, tolerance, and love will provide the answers.

Sarah Wright, Editor Your Dog Magazine

What a wonderful way for children to learn about other cultures around the world than through the eyes of a gentle unassuming dog. There is so much going on in our

world at the moment, with 2021 being no exception. It is easy for us to stay in our own bubbles, and not have any understanding of how the world functions in different cultures. This is where this book comes in, it's a fantastic way to entertain children, and educate them at the same time about diversity of our wider world. This book is a conversation starter for children and their families on the complexities of the world we live in. Hector is an unassuming, gentle and non-judgmental dog, who accidentally travels the world in a time machine, experiencing different cultures from his unique perspective. He passes on wonderful and powerful messages to our children, the next generation of adults. A great read, and I couldn't wait to find out where Hector and Susy were going next.

Nicky Wooderson, mum,
founder of Blossoming Bumps and Babies

I have never had and I do not have any animal, but the animal world has fascinated me since childhood. Coworking trips to the countryside to my grandmother remained in my memory as a time of constant play with dogs and cats and constant observation of the behaviour of cows, horses, chickens, ducks and geese. And now, during a pandemic, my wife and I take a ritual walk to the river almost every day, looking at water birds or chasing dogs, in a broader sense – observing nature is probably the greatest pleasure in this difficult period for everyone. That is why it was with great satisfaction and joy that I immersed myself in the dog's world of Hector, as well as with admiration for the Author that she entered the world of sensations and experiences of this four-legged

friend so beautifully. Reading this book also took me into the world of my school years, when my most favourite books were the animal series by Jan Grabowski, so popular at that time, with such titles as: *Finek, Reksio i Pucek, Puc, Bursztyn and guests, Down, cat over cats* or *Darling zoo*. Years later, I read all these books to my son and then to my grandchildren as a bedtime story.

prof. Jan Miodek, scientist,
humanist, erudite, linguist,
Polish authority in the field of disseminating
knowledge about the mother tongue and its culture

Dogs and cats have always been in my life. As a child, I had a poodle named Terry. He was an exceptional dog; he was very intelligent and extremely close to our family. While creating the documentary series *Dog Psychologist*, I learned that the poodle is one of the oldest breeds and that the poodles served in the French police.

In my adult home there was always an animal, two cats, Kocur and Koszka, and they raised my Whiskey, a Shetland Sheepdog female. Time goes by and now Whiskey has repaid them by bringing up two young kittens, Kuba and Libra. It can be said that Libra is almost in love with Whiskey – his dog's mother. I read the book "Hector & the Time Machine" with great pleasure; it speaks about what I observe in my home zoo. Friendship and love among animals can be great and they transfer these friendly feelings to us.

Dariusz Dyner – producer,
author of television programs

2020 was a very hard year for many of us, including the youngest. Many parents wonder how to talk to their children about what has happened in the world. The dog Hector comes to the rescue, taking the young reader on a journey around the world to watch what happened in the world up close.

This book helps parents to engage in discussions on important topics such as pandemic, climate change, Brexit, and multiculturalism while reading together with their child. If, dear parent, you are looking for a book that will help you talk to your child about what is happening in the world, this is the perfect starting position to take care of these often difficult topics for parents in an interesting and accessible way for the child.

Natalia Supel, MSc – child and youth psychologist, educator and social skills trainer

Would you like to travel in good company? If so I invite you on board. Hector returns in a big way and takes the reader on a journey through time, showing the beauty, diversity and dynamics of the world around us. This journey will not only surprise you, but also make you reflect on your own. Maybe it will even be the beginning of more than one valuable conversation.

Dorota Zdziech, mother,
Bajubajka bookstore – books for children

A fast-paced, adventurous story about the journey of Hector the dog, sensitizing to the diversity of cultures, contemporary problems and threats. A plot, where diffi-

cult topics and problems are interwoven with interesting stories, gives the adventure lightness and strongly engages the reader. Colourful descriptions allow you to move to colourful India, full of aromas and flavours, drink the traditional five o'clock tea or finally take part in the Golden Globes handout. Traveling to Australia during the great fire, which took on enormous dimensions due to human activity, leaves a certain insufficiency, motivating the reader to investigate the causes of climate and weather changes and introduce habits that save our planet. Hector will love children's hearts, who will be happy to come back to common adventures and plan new ones.

Dorota Mazurek,
Editorial Director of the portal for parents

Hector returns in style. He becomes a time traveller and… he takes us with him. So if you want to feel the thrill and see where this extraordinary time machine will take it – reach for this book. And travel with the dog and his mistress without moving from the armchair.

As a dog lover, I approached this book with great hopes. And I was not disappointed. There is room for reflection, adventure, friendship and love. There are travels in time through lands known only from stories and the most important events in the history of mankind. Finally, there is a nice doggy, Hector – who, like a seasoned guide, guides us through time. Immerse yourself in his world and listen to his stories. It's worth it.

Urszula Sleszynska, mother, journalist,
runs the blog about books for children

If you want a beautiful and valuable journey around the world, be sure to join Hector! Traveling with this friendly and wise pooch, you will get to know different cultures, taste dishes from different corners of the world, you will also have the opportunity to stop for a moment and think about what problems and threats people on all continents face and how to prevent them, how to help our planet. A wonderful book for both children and adults. It will undoubtedly help you with conversations about what is happening in the world. I recommend it with all my heart!

Magdalena Mentel,
editor-in-chief of Magazine Children

He is wise, experienced, devoted, loved by people, loves traveling and adventures – who more than the dog Hector could be the closest friend and life guide of a child? Especially one that asks many insightful questions that parents aren't always able to answer. Hector is a great support in explaining to the child many challenges and problems of today's world, at his level of understanding. An excellent basis for later discussions with your child about them. We recommend it to parents and children who are keenly interested in current world events.

Beata Benewiat,
director of the School in Plainfield, NJ

If you want to give your children joy and, additionally, extraordinary, unusual pleasure, and at the same time carefully and carefully care for their development and education, reach for children's literature by Renata Kaminska. It is a real gem among publications addressed to the youngest

readers, lined with soul, refined down to the smallest detail. Exactly the kind that brings back the best childhood memories of when you grew up with your favourite books. One that, upon contact with it, remains in the heart and memory forever. Finally, one that will last for generations and have a chance to be included in the classics of children's literature. Kaminska writes in an extraordinary, authentic, gentle, gentle way, carefully selects her vocabulary, subtly pampers the tastes of young readers to instil in them a love for the book, from an early age, when the child is interested not only in the content of illustrations, which Kaminska's books do not lack and which are tailored almost perfectly to the presented situations, but when she wants to learn the words and enjoy listening to unique stories hidden in the pages of Kaminska's literature. Kaminska writes in a way that awakens children's imaginations, discovers talents, allows them to reach for dreams, gives space to the carefree and cheerfulness of childhood. The author gives young readers faith in overcoming difficulties that also occur in a child's life, gives a lesson and shows a number of possibilities. Its teaching is not a classic moral, but one of the ways that a young reader can choose and imagine the stories presented in his own way. If you want your child to experience an adventure that will remain a solid learning experience, choose the adventures of the dog Hector, who will turn out to be not only a great friend of your child, but above all, in a sense, a teacher. If you are close to traditional values based on principles, love, closeness, beauty and hope, the author speaks about all this in an intelligent way, writing in an accessible, understandable and subtle language, so that young readers will be satisfied with participating in the journey at the beginning

of their journey. Kaminska's prose provides him. Children fell in love with Hector just like other generations of their book, fairy-tale heroes of the era. I recommend! It is worth it for Hector to come to your homes.

Malgorzata Bugaj-Martynowska
Director of the School in London
Director of the Educator of the Center of Directors and Managing Personnel of Polish schools in Great Britain

Reader, you are holding in your hands a unique book for children to read together with parents. It stands out from the rest

- A nice character of Hector the dog, who, like children, asks a lot of questions and, like them, accepts answers with openness and without being overly critical,

- Fast, addictive action, thanks to which the reader even swallows the next pages of the book.

- An extensive storyline, thanks to which children learn about various countries, their modern realities and current problems.

It is these problems and the way they are described that provide parents with an ideal starting point for further discussion with their children, while leaving room for their own assessment and interpretation.

Anna Kolm, mother of 9 and owner of Pepito – Shop and activities for children

I liked the book about Hector very much.

Ala, 9 years old

"Hector & the Time Machine" is a wonderful book full of adventures that is told by a dog named Hector. This book is great for everyone, and thanks to the links to the events of 2020, it can deepen the imagination of every child and adult. Nobody will forget 2020, the year of the pandemic, the year of wearing masks, the year of "Black lives matter" etc. This book will always remind you of what happened, besides traveling in different countries, meeting new friends is something unforgettable for the hero, but also for the reader. A very pleasant surprise when the heroes came to Poland during their last trip. I recommend it with all my heart to everyone who loves traveling, who loves animals and who loves people.

Anna Bedra, mother of a 5-year-old

Nice book. Hector is a great dog. I would also like to ride and get to know new friends.

Oliwer, age 5

Funny, brilliant, unusual. Extremely clever and thought-provoking. A book about values, people and the world through the eyes of a dog. Not judgmental. It only prompts the reader to reflect and try to answer the questions: how do we deal with changes, crises or problems that life presents to us. As a great dog lover – I highly recommend it.

Ilona Adamska, editor-in-chief of Women's Empire, founder of the European Business Women's Club

Hector
and
the Time Machine

Hector and the Time Machine

FULL OF ADVENTURES, JUMP TO 2020

RENATA KAMINSKA

Hector and the Time Machine is a publication
by Renata Kaminska

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You can visit our website to read about the project and
the first book Hector, A Dog's Story
at: www.hectorandfriends.com

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

They say that you only look good with your family in a photograph. However, I have always dreamt of having a big family, even though I am an only child. It was the values I learned at home that motivated me to write the first book in the series about Hector's adventures – Hector, A Dog's Story. Its main theme is the emotions that accompanied my childhood world. I dedicated it to my beloved Grandmother. She was my greatest 'engine' in life and for thirty years she persistently encouraged me to fulfil my dreams.

On this second book, I would like to thank my parents, who were also my first reviewers. I am grateful to them for developing in me the need to be a good and ambitious person. I am very lucky that my Mum is still with me and is my support and best friend. So, I would like to thank again my parents simply for being with me and loving me.

Finally, I would like to thank all my friends and people who believed in me and encouraged me to publish second story about Hector. Thanks to you, the first book has been read in over sixteen countries on five continents

and who knows how far the second one will travel. My special thanks go to Syed, a poet yet unknown to the world.

"Nothing is impossible if you put your heart, mind and soul into it"

- Nirmal 'Nims' Purja, the world record-breaking Nepalese climber

INTRODUCTION

The world seen through the eyes of a child looks different. The adult world is often incomprehensible. On the other hand, it is very exciting and thrilling. Children are good observers. They like to ask questions and their curiosity is genuine and natural. They call the world as they really see it. They do not judge. They do not criticise. They often ask very difficult questions and expect answers or explanations from us.

What if the world looks similar from a dog's perspective? Is a dog's perception of reality so far from ours? Do dogs also face the difficulties of life every day and look for answers? I think that in this respect they have a lot in common with children. It has been scientifically proven that dogs, just like humans, have a personality and feelings. They try to communicate with us by means of their eyes, the position of their jaws or the wagging of their tails.

Perhaps it is worth considering for a moment what the world looks like from a dog's perspective. As an only child who has been accompanied by a dog for a third of her life, I have no doubt that this is the case. I felt that we

were growing and discovering the world together. When I spoke to him, I felt that he really understood me. I wondered what it would be like if one day he could speak. This is how the idea of making a dog named Hector the main character of the book was born.

A dog can be a good partner for a child in learning about the world. Hector is a dog full of energy and curious observations. Children can easily identify with him, and he can help them see things from a different perspective which seem difficult or insurmountable.

The year 2020 has been very tough for many of us. On his journey around the world, Hector is an observer of important events and phenomena. Just like a child, he asks questions and seeks answers to understand the complexity of the world, its history, different cultures, etc. He helps parents discuss difficult issues with their children based on their own values and knowledge. Like a child, Hector does not judge, but only asks questions. Hector's story is a journey into the unknown, full of turbulence and adventure, and an attempt to understand the world around us. It is a story about human values, contemporary problems, and multiculturalism, which we will face throughout our lives. It is a book that teaches respect, tolerance, and love. It is the story of us as humans, seen through the eyes of a dog.

I strongly believe in the role of education and the need to build strong family relationships. I think positive

attitudes and values should be formed from an early age. At the same time, I am of the opinion that honest and open dialogue between parent and child plays a key role here. Fairy tales help children to recognise and name their own emotions and suggest ways of dealing with them.

CHAPTER I

HAPPY HOME AND MEMORIES

I am Hector and I was born in 1939 in a small country house on the outskirts of Vienna. I am a mongrel who considers himself a big lucky guy, even though my life was often full of tears. Fortunately, I ended up in the home of Mr and Mrs Floral, who gave me a lot of love. The Florals are an Austrian couple of Polish origin who emigrated to Vienna during the war. Marcel Floral is an engineer and designs various complex machines. He has his own company, so he can carry out his work in his home office. Dorothy Floral, on the other hand, is a painter who, apart from her own art gallery, also runs a foundation for young artists. For this reason, almost every wall in the house is filled with paintings. Together they enjoy reading books from their book collection and riding bikes. They are a couple of very loving people and wonderful parents to their lovely girls: Suzy and Merry.

The little one is a very cheerful and energetic young lady who still goes to primary school. Her older sister goes to high school. They are very close to each other and despite their age difference, they like to spend a lot of time together. Suzy often helps Merry with her homework and makes sure that she never leaves home without breakfast. She likes to make various hair accessories for her.

Our white house with a brown roof may not be the biggest, but it is very cosy. It has large wooden windows so that I can be awakened by the sun every morning. The house is surrounded by a small brown fence, which separates us from other neighbouring houses. There is a lot of greenery around, and in front of the entrance there is a small path and a garden where I play with my children. Yes, I am a grown-up dog and dad now. Our three little ones: Ted, Margaret and Oscar are quite the rascals.

Marcel & Dorothy Floral not only provided me with a new home, but also agreed to take in my partner Mini, who was a homeless dog just like me.

I remember very well that day when Suzy and Merry took me to the vet and there in the cage was sitting sad Mini. I will never forget how my heart beat stronger and how happy I was to find her.

We used to live in an old factory together with other street cats and dogs under the leadership of Oscar the dog. We spent time taking long walks, playing, and visiting local shops in search of food. Time passed slowly but joyfully.



One day everything changed. Now I remember the events as if through a fog. First my mother passed away, hit by a car, and on another day a stranger took me away. Then he abandoned me on the railway tracks. I think I lost consciousness. When I woke up, I was lying in some house in a basket on a red, soft, and nice smelling pillow. The whole world was spinning before my eyes. I felt sleepy and confused. I did not know where I was or what was happening.

At the time I thought I had died and was in heaven. I was so excited to be reunited with Mum and my former carers, Mr and Mrs Trap, and to be all together again. When was that? All I remember is some sort of light, a train, and the turtling of wheels. When I woke up again, the Florals family was standing in front of me, smiling warmly. This is how I found my new home.

Today is a beautiful and sunny day. We should make good use of it. I don't know what is going on, but Mr Marcel has been behaving strangely since this morning, and now I don't even see him at home. I think he went out somewhere. Mrs Dorothy looks so beautiful today and has been walking around the house smiling since morning. The green floral dress matches her lush grey curls and big brown eyes.

I am very fond of my owners. It's been a few years since me and Mini moved into their house. I love spending time playing with their daughters, who always have so much energy. I remember when little Merry got sick a year ago. I was so worried that something would happen

to her. Luckily, everything ended well, and her sister takes great care of her.

"Girls? Come here! Daddy has a surprise for you." Mrs Dorothy's warm voice came from behind the door.

I wondered what it was about. Curious, I decided to follow them to the big room. In the middle stood my Master with a big bouquet of flowers called tulips. The different colours of the petals shimmered in the sun like a rainbow. On the table was a chocolate cake with a heart stuck in it, and on it the inscription: 8 March. The girls threw themselves into their dad's arms. He kissed them firmly and gave each of them a flower. Then he went up to his wife and kissed her first on the cheek, and then on the hand. Mrs Dorothy blushed and hugged her daughters.

"Today is Women's Day" I heard Mini from behind me.

"Women's Day? Oh, what's that?"

"It's a day when all the ladies get flowers and gifts." explained Mini.

A lovely tradition, I thought. Women play a very important role and it's nice to have a day when this is recognised. Apparently the first Women's Day was celebrated in New York in America. I guess that's a long way from where we live.

"Hector! Hector, come here!" I heard Mini's voice in the distance.

"I'm coming, baby!"

I have noticed that people have lots of different traditions that they celebrate throughout the year. My favourite holiday is Christmas Eve, when everyone gives each other presents. Mrs Dorothy cooks a lot of yummy food that day. We dogs don't do anything like that, or at least I've never heard of it. Mini would surely feel nice if today was a special day. Hmmmm... just what could I think of so quickly? I already know! I'll take her for a romantic walk in the new park.

The last time we were on such a walk, it was still World War II, which also had an impact on our lives. When I was a puppy, I didn't really understand what war was and what was happening around me. I thought that the world was divided into so-called good and bad people, good and bad animals that sometimes argue. I did not know that people not only quarrel but also deprive lives and build special devices and machines to destroy cities.

After the war ended, I wondered about the reasons for it. I started thinking about why people from one country start attacking people in another. Are they fighting for food, territory, or perhaps for power? What is the human motivation for starting it?

I remember a few years ago, Mini and I went for a walk in an unfamiliar area, and we got lost. We ended up near some place full of rubbish and debris. There we were attacked by a group of aggressive dogs. They were angry that we entered their territory. Then Oscar, the


8 March

bravest dog I know, came to help. Was this what war was like?

Suddenly I felt a poke and a white paw flashed before my eyes. It was Mini.

"Enough of this pondering. Are we going to that park after all?" Mini asked teasingly.

"Of course! Let's go."

Such a beautiful day cannot be wasted. I love spring when it's warm outside and full of luscious greenery and flowers all around. There is pollen floating in the air. The streets are full of people. We pass families with children, couples in love. Everyone is smiling and enjoying the good weather. Tables with chairs are set up in front of restaurants. The local vendors put bowls of water and leftover food in front of their shops.

A few streets further on and we are in a newly created park. Compared to others, it is quite small, but I like it a lot. There are a lot of trees. Mini and I can run between them, and play hide and seek. Then we lie down on the grass and look at the clouds floating in the sky.

Oh, that was fun! – Mini sighed and started rolling around in the grass.

I lay down next to her and sighed too. I looked at her fluffy, shiny white fur and felt happy.