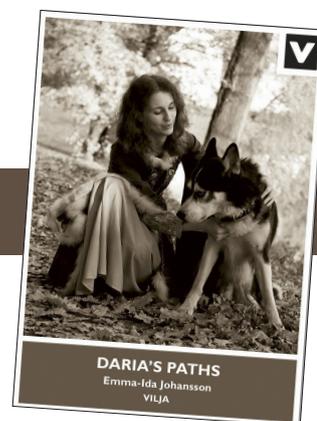


EMMA-IDA JOHANSSON
translated by Suzanne Martin Cheadle

Daria's Paths



ABOUT THE BOOK

Daria is new in Sweden. She feels homesick and she thinks that it is difficult to learn Swedish. Daria goes for walks in the park every day, thinking about her old country, her husband who is dead and the difficulties in the new country. On day, she meets an old woman, Marit, and her life changes.

A NEW COUNTRY

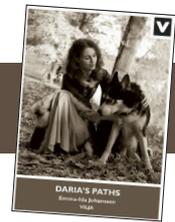
Discuss in class what it is like to come to a new country. Find descriptions of Daria's feelings in the book, e.g. on pages 3, 5, 6 and 8. How does she feel?

TYPICALLY SWEDISH

There are many things in the book that are typically Swedish. How many things can the students find? Here is a list with things in the book:

- The dog's name: Ronja. The dog is named after a character in the book *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter* (Ronja rövardotter), written by a well-known Swedish author, Astrid Lindgren.
- Sing in a choir. This may not be a Swedish thing only, but many Swedes sing in a choir.
- Coffee with cookies and buns. The Swedish "fika" is special.
- Saffron buns and gingerbread cookies are special for Christmas in Sweden.
- Spring flowers: snowdrops, crocuses, winter aconite. Look at photos of *snödroppar*, *krokus* and *vintergäck*.
- The allotment. Many Swedes have allotments where they grow flowers and vegetables.
- The red cottages. You can see red wooden cottages all over Sweden.

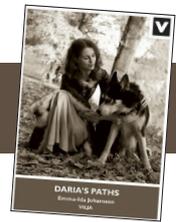
Are there any other things typically Swedish that the students can come up with?



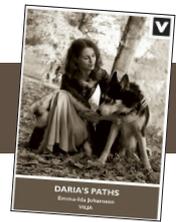
EXERCISES WITH KEY

Questions

1. The two first sentences in the book tells us something about Daria. What do we learn about her?
Daria is learning Swedish. She comes from another country.
2. What do we learn about Daria's family?
She lives with her two children. They are good at Swedish.
3. Daria cannot sleep. Why?
She is homesick.
4. In school, they do something that makes Daria feel happy. What do they do?
They sing Swedish songs.
5. What does Daria do after school?
She goes to the park.
6. What does Daria think about when she thinks about her homeland?
She remembers how it smells.
7. What do we learn about Daria's husband.
He is dead.
8. How do we know that it is fall (autumn)?
The trees in the park are starting to lose their leaves. Red and yellow leaves are lying on the ground.
9. What happens in the park one day?
A woman with a dog says hi to Daria.
10. The woman and Daria start talking. Daria tells her what she is thinking about. She mentions three things. What three things?
Her homeland, the Swedish language and her husband.
11. The dog, Ronja, likes Daria. How do we know that?
She barks happily and wags her tail.
12. Marit tells Daria about her problems. What are they?
Marit misses her children. They live far away. Her husband is very sick.
13. One day, Marit has an idea. What does she ask Daria?
She asks Daria if she wants to come to choir practice.
14. Daria likes to sing and there is another good thing about it, too. What is that?
Swedish is easier when she sings it.
15. In class, Daria has an idea. What is her idea?
She thinks that they should always sing a song before they end for the day.
16. It is Christmas and Marit asks Daria something. What does she ask her?
She asks Daria if she can take care of Ronja when Marit is away.



17. Marit invites Daria home. Describe her home.
Marit lives in a small apartment. It is cozy and there are many beautiful paintings on the walls.
18. Marit and Daria have a typical Swedish "fika". What do they have?
They have coffee, cookies and buns.
19. Where is Marit's husband?
He is in a nursing home. He is sick. He forgets everything.
20. What is Marit like when she comes home from her trip?
She is happy and she seems younger than before.
21. One day, something terrible happens. What?
Marit does not come to the park. Daria goes to her apartment. Marit is lying on the floor. She is unconscious.
22. What does Daria do?
She calls 112.
23. What happens when Daria calls 112?
An ambulance comes and takes Marit to hospital.
24. One day, Marit's daughter rings Daria's doorbell. What does she say?
She says that Marit has died. She asks if Daria can take care of the dog.
25. Daria gets a letter from a lawyer. What does the letter say?
It says that Marit wanted Daria to take care of the dog, Ronja. Also, Marit wanted Daria to have her allotment.
26. What is an allotment?
It is a small piece of land where you can grow flowers and vegetables.
27. Describe the allotment.
It is surrounded by a white fence. It has a little red cottage. Next to the cottage is a small apple tree.
28. What does Daria plant at the allotment?
Carrots and potatoes.
29. What does Daria do one day?
She invites everyone in the choir to the allotment. She serves coffee and buns.

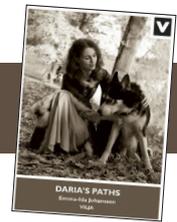


The seasons

In the book, time passes and the four seasons. Find descriptions of fall (autumn) (p. 7), winter, (p. 9) spring (p. 17) and summer (p. 21).

What are the words?

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|--|----------------|
| 1. When you eat in the evening. | dinner |
| 2. When you want to go home to your own country. | homesick |
| 3. A sculpture with water. | fountain |
| 4. You do this with your nose. | smell |
| 5. When you say hello to someone. | greet |
| 6. Your head goes up and down. | nod |
| 7. Dogs "talk" like this. | bark |
| 8. White and cold in winter. | snow |
| 9. People meet and sing together. | choir |
| 10. When you make cakes. | baking |
| 11. Salad, cucumber, carrots ... | vegetables |
| 12. When something tastes good. | tasty |
| 13. your children's children. | grand-children |
| 14. A small piece of land where you can grow flowers and vegetables. | allotment |
| 15. A very small house. | cottage |



Pair the English words with the Swedish words

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|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. different | 9 glömma |
| 2. no one else | 8 ha hemlängtan |
| 3. hard | 10 i stället |
| 4. spin around | 2 ingen annan |
| 5. proud | 6 läxor |
| 6. homework | 1 olika |
| 7. practice | 7 öva |
| 8. be homesick | 4 snurra runt |
| 9. forget | 5 stolt |
| 10. instead | 3 svårt |

Pair the Swedish words with the English words

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. stig | 7 as usual |
| 2. lättare | 6 beautifully |
| 3. fortfarande | 4 by heart |
| 4. utantill | 2 easier |
| 5. vänlig | 5 friendly |
| 6. vackert | 9 fur |
| 7. som vanligt | 1 path |
| 8. känna igen | 8 recognize |
| 9. päls | 3 still |
| 10. en resa | 10 a trip |