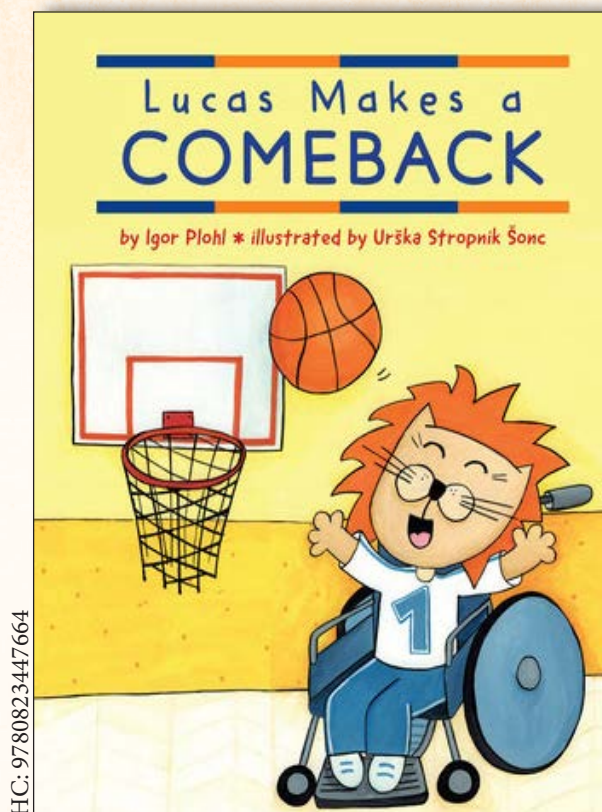


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Lucas Makes a Comeback

by **Igor Plohl**
illustrated by **Urška Stropnik Šonc**

ABOUT THE BOOK

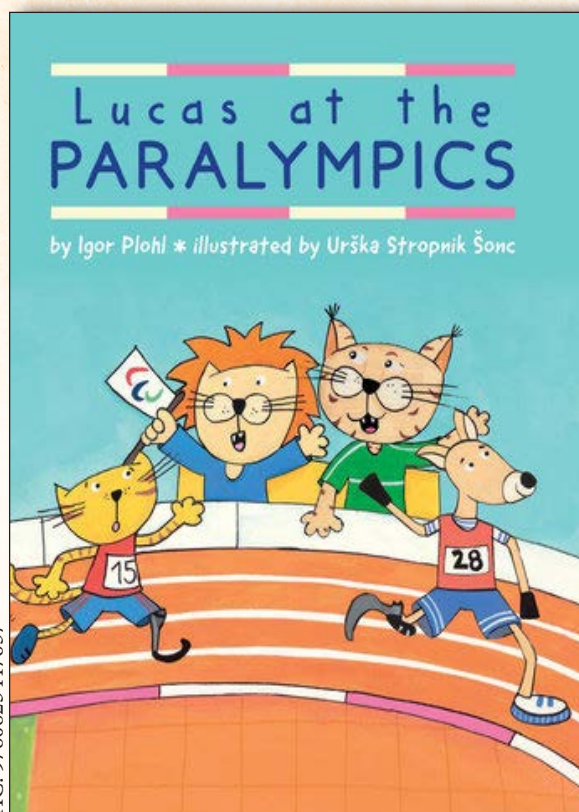
Lucas fell, and now he lives with a disability. A story of grit and resilience.

When Lucas falls off a ladder, he damages his spine and can't use his legs anymore. He can't stand on them, and he can't walk on them. Read about how, with self-determination as well as the love of friends and family, Lucas can drive a car, play sports, and be a teacher again! The author, Igor Plohl, uses his own experiences as a paraplegic and as a teacher to speak to children about disability, resilience, and grit.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- What does the cover reveal about Lucas? Define "comeback." How does the title of the book suggest that Lucas hasn't always been in a wheelchair?
- Discuss the things that Lucas has always enjoyed doing. What do these things reveal about him? Discuss what he enjoyed about teaching at Pleasantville County Day School. Take a clue from the illustration of Lucas's classroom and state what age students he teaches.
- Lucas falls from a ladder and injures his spine. Discuss safety measures that Lucas could have taken before using the ladder. How might Lucas explain his accident to his students?
- What does "king of my castle" mean? Explain how being "king of his castle" means something different to Lucas after his accident.
- Why does Lucas move in with his parents after his accident? Discuss the things that he must learn to do before he can live alone again. How do you know that his mother is happy for him when he can once again live alone?
- Take a look at the page where Lucas is looking for an apartment. Explain the frown on his face. What kinds of things does he need in an apartment?
- How do Lucas's students welcome him back to the classroom? Discuss the possible changes that he must make in his classroom now that he is in a wheelchair.
- Who are the people that help Lucas make his comeback? How is he the one most responsible for his comeback?
- Note the sun in the illustration on the last page. Explain the smile on the sun's face. How is the sun a symbol of hope for Lucas?





Lucas at the Paralympics

by **Igor Plohl**

illustrated by **Urška Stropnik Šonc**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Introduce young readers to the Paralympics—where world-class athletes with disabilities exemplify strength, determination, and courage.

Lucas and Eddie, two friends with physical disabilities, visit the Paralympics and cheer on blind and physically challenged athletes as they compete in running, swimming, sitting volleyball, para archery, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair basketball, and more.

Readers learn about some of the rules that expedite play and even the playing field. For example, blind runners wear blindfolds so none of the competitors (some totally blind and some with limited sight) have an unfair advantage. Also, all of the blind competitors are tethered to guides. Author Igor Plohl, who lost the use of his legs after a spinal injury, is a teacher and passionate advocate for raising awareness of physical disability. As a teacher, he knows the questions children ask and how to answer them.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- Discuss the friendship between Lucas and Eddie. Eddie tells Lucas about the Paralympic Games. Explain how Lucas is encouraged by attending the Paralympics. How do the games help him set new goals?
- Discuss what it takes to be a competitor. How does participating in the Paralympics take the same competitive spirit as it does for athletes competing in the Olympics?
- Describe Lucas's cycle. How is it different from a bicycle? Discuss the many ways Lucas must train to compete in cycling.
- Define accommodation as it applies to people with disabilities. What accommodations are made for blind athletes in the Paralympics?
- Jake, Eddie's friend, is very disappointed when he doesn't win a medal in swimming. Explain how Eddie finally comes to terms with his loss. How do you know that Eddie will compete again?
- How many different sporting events do Lucas and Eddie watch? Which is the roughest sport in the Paralympics?
- Discuss the rules of wheelchair basketball. How might these players use the same muscles Lucas uses in cycling?
- Lucas loves teaching. How might he describe his experience in the Paralympics?



ABOUT THE CREATORS



photo credit: Doris Brunec

Igor Plohl (pronounced EE-gor PLAHL) was born and raised in Slovenia, where he teaches at a primary school and lectures extensively on physical disability and spinal cord injury. After falling from a ladder at the age of twenty-nine, he injured his spinal cord and became paraplegic. He shares his experience in an autobiographical book for adults and three children's books.

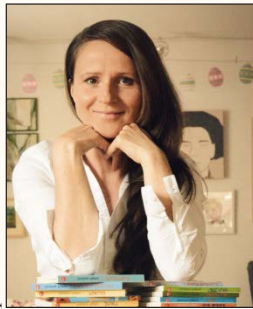


photo credit: Založba Pivec

Urška Stropnik Šonc graduated from the Faculty of Education in Maribor for book illustration. Her first picture book illustrations were published in 1997. Since then, she has illustrated more than seventy books. She lives with her husband and three sons in Velenje, Slovenia.

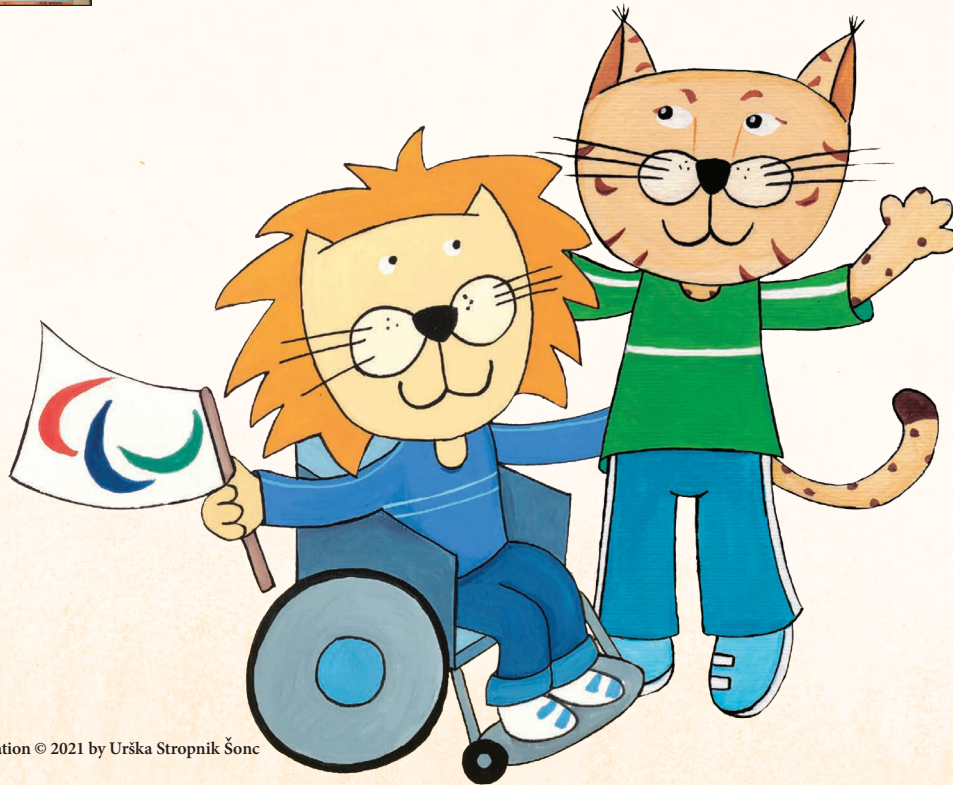


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