



LAGERLÖF THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES OF NILS

The Wonderful Adventures of Nils

by **Selma Lagerlöf (1858-1940)**
translated by Velma Swanston Howard

Selma Lagerlöf was born in Värmland, Sweden, and enjoyed a long and very successful career as a writer, receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1909. *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils (Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige)* was published in two parts in 1906 and 1907. The book tells the story about a young lad, Nils Holgersson, whose "chief delight was to eat and sleep, and after that he liked best to make mischief". He is taken on a tour of Sweden by a group of animals, and eventually learns to be a better boy. The background for publication was a commission from the National Teachers Association in 1902 to write a geography reader for the public schools. "She devoted three years to Nature study and to familiarizing herself with animal and bird life. She has sought out hitherto unpublished folklore and legends of the different provinces. These she has ingeniously woven into her story." (From translator Velma Swanston Howard's introduction)



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