Sansuna is a giantess belonging to the Nephilm race. Legend has it that they were responsible for the great megalithic structures found all over the Maltese islands. Some of these giants were not very smart but Sansuna is clever and uses her knowledge to protect the land. She wears a big apron and keeps broad beans and jars of honey and carob syrup in her oversized pocket. Look up more stories about Sansuna and other giants in Manwel Magri's Hrejjef Missierijietna!

Can you imagine a day in the life of Sansuna? What would it be like to be a giant?

The carob tree can grow for over 1000 years. In fact, it is one of the oldest trees to be found in Malta. There is a male carob tree and a female carob tree. Both are needed for the fruit to grow. In the first 15 years of its life, a carob tree does not produce fruit. It is a very strong tree that does well in hot climates and stony soil. Its pods are used to make carob syrup, which cures coughs. The Maltese people also use the syrup to make sweets. In mythology, carob trees are said to be immune to evil spirits because their flowers and fruit are blessed. In ancient times, people used carob seeds to determine the weight of gemstones and gold. That is why we measure gold in carats! Carat is the old word for carob seed.

Can you find out where some of Malta’s carob trees live?
Imagine you are going on an important journey to save trees.

Where would you go?

What would you take with you?

What would you say to the evil people who are destroying nature?

How would you protect Malta’s wild trees and flowers?

Join Katarin on her adventures between the 16 – 25 November 2018 at ŻiguŻajg International Arts Festival for Children and Young Adults.

Sansuna and the Carob Tree

This story takes place in prehistoric Malta, a time before there was a great flood. At this time all the islands were joined together and people used boats that travelled on land to get around. It is a story about a giantess named Sansuna and a people who temporarily forgot how precious nature is.

Sansuna is a quiet but very strong giantess. She lives peacefully among the Maltese, eating broad beans and honey. Life is good in this beautiful land until a mischievous boy, named Toninu, teases the giantess a little too far and causes the oldest carob tree in the land to die. Sansuna gets very angry.

Toninu’s people are forced to hide underground. They remain there for many years until his sister, Katarin, leaves on a journey to find answers. During her journey she meets many characters, some of whom even trick her and try to harm her.

Determined to make peace with Sansuna and restore the dead carob tree, Katarin marches on.

Will she manage to restore peace in her land and save her people? Will Sansuna return to the gentle, peaceful giantess she once was? What about the carob tree? Is there any hope that it will come back to life?

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