

Portuguese Children's Books

The present selection shows the vitality of a literature which is well worth discovering and, above all, being read by children and young people of different countries and cultures.

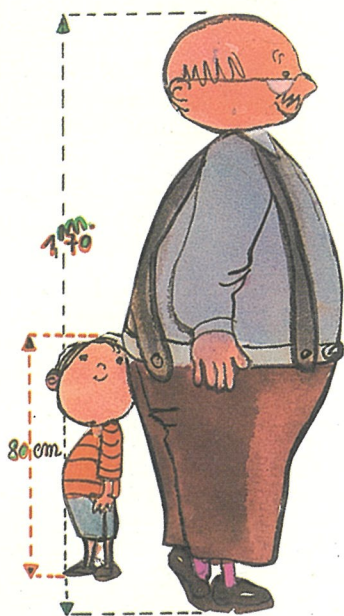


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INSTITUTO PORTUGUÊS DO
LIVRO E DAS BIBLIOTECAS

My Granddad



O meu Avô

Manuela Bacelar (text and illustration)
Oporto, Edições Afrontamento, 1990
[Illustrated]

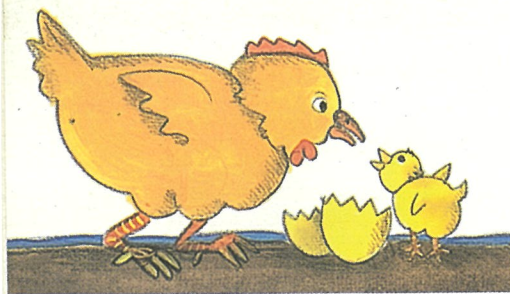
From four upwards

Already published in France and nominated for the Octogones Prize in 1992 and for the List of Honour of the 12th European Pier Paolo Vergerio Prize, this illustrated book sets out the relationship, from the child's point of view, between a child and his grandfather who is a pastry-cook. This relationship, marked by affection and humour throughout, is conveyed in strongly appealing images, slightly but sensitively caricatured, in which the colour red predominates. Since this grandfather is every child's ideal, his personality comes through in his tenderness and in the willing way he plays with the child.



Manuela Bacelar, who is here both author and illustrator, lives in Oporto and is one of the most famous contemporary Portuguese illustrators. Influenced by the Czech school of illustration (she studied in Prague), she has been awarded various prizes in her career, such as the "Golden Apple" in the Bratislava Illustration Biennial in 1989.

The Mysterious Eggs



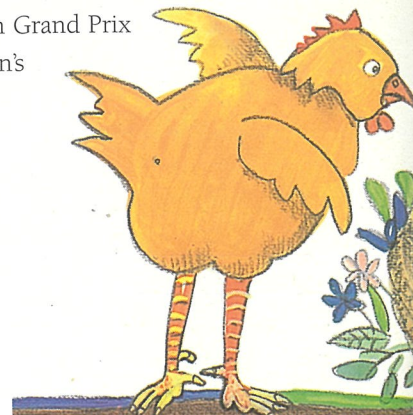
Os ovos misteriosos

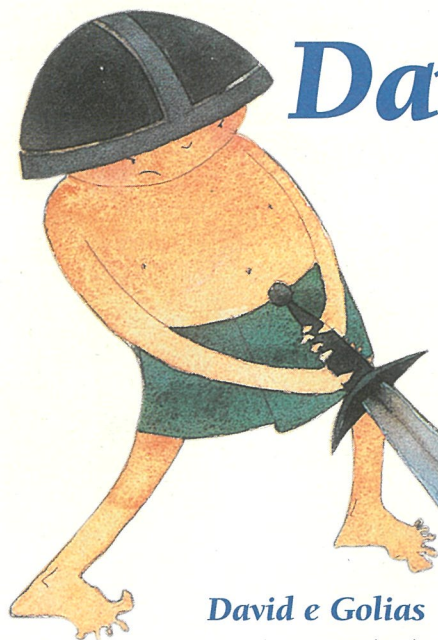
Luísa Ducla Soares (text);
Manuela Bacelar (illustration)
Oporto, Edições Afrontamento, 1994
[Illustrated]

From four upwards

This illustrated work, already published in France, tells the story of a hen who lays five eggs from which there emerge a chick, a crocodile, an ostrich, a parrot and a snake. In this situation, after the trials and dangers which this unusual family has to face, we see that the moral of the story may be summed up in the well-known expression, "Everybody equal, everybody different". It is an appeal to both unity and the active acceptance of diversity, contained in an irresistibly funny fable.

Luísa Ducla Soares is a well-known author of short stories, stories for young people and poems, almost always distinguished by the presence of humour and a certain nonsense, which is underlined by the charming images of **Manuela Bacelar**. In 1996 the whole body of L. D. Soares' work was honoured with the Calouste Gulbenkian Grand Prix for Children's Literature.





David e Goliath

The struggle between David and Goliath is one of the best known stories of the Old Testament. We come across it again here in abbreviated form, in a small format picture book, where above all else the expressive quadrichrome illustrations stand out. Making the most of the format, André Letria plays with different angles of vision and exploits the suggestibility of curved lines, so as to bring out contrasts in size for comic effect.

David e Golias

António Mota (text);

André Letria (illustration)

Oporto, Livraria Civilização Editora, 1995

[Illustrated]

From four upwards



Coming from a rural region in Northern Portugal and already a prizewinner, António Mota is well known as an author of stories for the young, as well as short stories and poetry.

André Letria has proved to be one of the most promising talents of the new generation of Portuguese illustrators. Versatile, able to adapt his multi-faceted style to a young person's story or to drawings for a book for the very young, it is particularly in this last area that his work has earned general approval.

The Devil's Rings



Since 1991, Alice Vieira has devoted part of her talents to a project intended to make available to the very young some stories from popular literature. The collection, Traditional Portuguese Stories, already forms fifteen volumes and the tenth, *The Beautiful Moorish Girl* (1993), has been published in Bulgaria. To the original ingredients of marvellous traditional story, the writer has added her own skill in preserving the vivacity of the oral narrative, which was the way in which the stories were first told. Here a young soldier's enduring love vanquishes every injustice and adversity. As is common in these enchanted stories the hero overcomes the past, conquers the

Os anéis do diabo

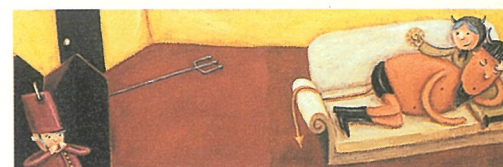
Alice Vieira (text);

André Letria (illustration)

Lisbon, Editorial Caminho, 1998

[Traditional story, illustrated]

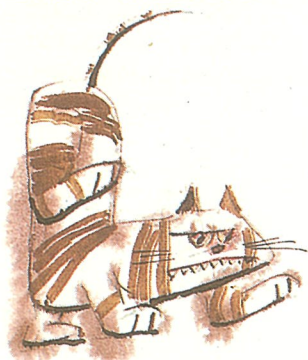
From five upwards



present and assures his future, in a process of growing up in which he has to face up to the devil and the experience of fear. Clean lines, the expressive nature of the drawings and a sense of humour are the characteristics of André Letria's work.

In 1998 Alice Vieira, the most translated of all Portuguese children's writers, was one of the nominations for the Hans Christian Andersen Prize and for the German Prize for Children's Literature (Auswahlliste Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis). For André Letria see the note under David and Goliath.

Stories in the Portuguese Language: The Most Beautiful Traditional Stories



Os mais belos contos tradicionais

M. Margarida Pereira Müller

(Choice of texts);

João Caetano (illustration)

Oporto, Livraria Civilização Editora, 1998

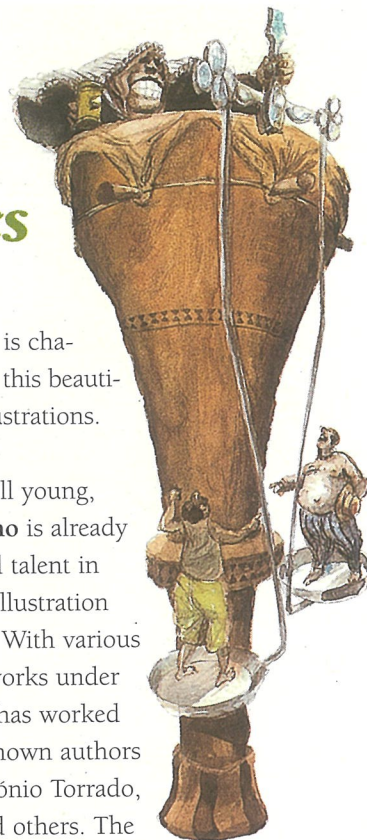
[Illustrated traditional stories]

From eight upwards

A dozen traditional stories from Portugal, Brazil, Cape Verde, Angola, S. Tomé, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Macao and Timor, which reveal a cultural diversity united by a common tongue: Portuguese. There are fables, stories of enchantment, exemplary narratives, illustrated by large-scale pictures, carefully drawn, hinting at many things. Colour is much in evidence, as well as the gift for creating atmosphere of great evocative power. The diversity of the texts (and the cultures from which they stem) is a fact which João Caetano has been able to respect without sacrificing the stylistic

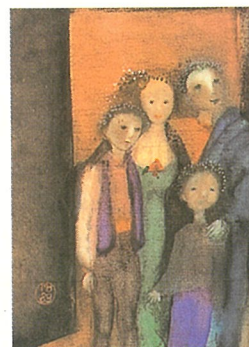
unity which is characteristic of this beautiful set of illustrations.

Although still young, **João Caetano** is already a recognized talent in the field of illustration in Portugal. With various published works under his belt, he has worked with well-known authors such as António Torrado, José Vaz and others. The present book is one of his finest achievements.



Silka

Inspired by an ancient legend from the Baltic, *Silka* reminds us of a fairy story. We hear the love story of Silka and Reinaldo who come from different tribes. The tribe to which the latter belongs - "the Magnificent Ones" - have been badly treated by those who live in Silka's village. Unable to stomach any more of this persecution the couple use their magical powers to go and live in the depths of the ocean. The love of the two main characters is therefore a forbidden love which ends both dramatically and movingly. Our reading cannot, however, ignore the experience of the author, a German Jewess. We can see, therefore, the work not only as a kind of parable on the destiny of the Jewish people but also as an appeal for tolerance and understanding among peoples. For her outstanding illustrations in oils for the second edition Manuela Bacelar was awarded the "Golden Apple" at



the Bratislava Bienal in 1989, along with the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Children's Literature (Illustration).

Ilse Losa was born in Germany. She was forced into exile to escape the Nazi persecution of the Jews and chose Portugal as her home. Her books in Portuguese were first published in the forties and were an important force in the renewal of children's literature in this country.

Manuela Bacelar is one of the most distinguished Portuguese illustrators and winner of many prizes. In addition to the prizes mentioned she was awarded the National Prize for Illustration by the IPLB/IBBY in 1996.



Silka

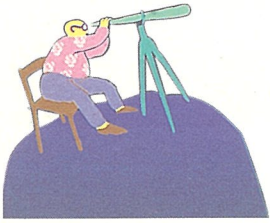
Ilse Losa (text);

Manuela Bacelar (illustration)

2ª ed., Oporto, Edições Afrontamento, 1991

[Illustrated short story]

From eight upwards



The Pink Elephant

One day, for the first time, a pink elephant feels the bitter taste of death and of loneliness on a planet where, until now, he has lived in “painless” splendour, where “time cannot be counted”. What he then becomes aware of is the fact, above all, that it is impossible to live without the presence of another. His trajectory is henceforth marked by his search: firstly in a comet which takes him to Earth, then in the imagination of a child, where he finally stops, “to bring together a bunch of kids”. This theme is central to the work of Luísa Dacosta, a writer who once more shows her love for words, weaving a text which ties the refinement of her writing and the depth of content to the apparent simplicity which is the hallmark of illustrated children’s books.

Luísa Dacosta was born in 1927 and lives in Oporto, where she teaches and writes finely wrought fiction for both adults and children. Among other distinctions, she was awarded the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Children’s Literature in 1994.

Francisco Providência is a graphic designer, who under his own name or using pseudonyms has provided illustrations for several books, sometimes using computer images as is the case with this book.

O elefante cor de rosa

Luísa Dacosta (text);

Francisco Providência (illustration)

2^a ed., Oporto,

Livraria Civilização Editora, 1996

[Illustrated short story]

From eight upwards

Happy Christmas, Father Christmas!

This is a story about Father Christmas, but different from the usual story and retold by Father Christmas himself. Down the years, in a small town in the north of Europe, a postman gets to know various people, including the future writer, Hans Christian Andersen, who gives him a taste for dreaming, even of one day going to Copenhagen. Already old, the postman is visited by the Winter Fairy who suggests a new task for him: to be Father Christmas. The years pass, generations follow one another and Father Christmas is there as the world evolves. Grief-stricken he sees wars, the destruction of the atmosphere, consumer frenzy, man’s ingratitude to man. But, after wondering about the meaning of his own mission, he discovers once again the courage to be who he is: the product of the imagination of children and of men who will live for as long as these do not stop dreaming. Of the highest artistic quality, the illustrations and the careful graphic design of this book are outstanding, particularly in their stylistic coherence and for the way in which they develop the wonderful atmosphere of one of the most popular Christmas stories, in pictures whose predominant colours are white, blue and red.

José Jorge Letria is a poet, playwright and the author of many literary and journalistic works, whose present position is that of Cultural Councillor in Cascais Town Hall. Among the many awards he has won is the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Children’s Literature, a field in which he has published many volumes in different styles.



António Modesto is a teacher in the Faculty of Fine Arts in the University of Oporto, and is one of Portugal’s most distinguished illustrators. In 1982 he was awarded the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Children’s Literature in the field of illustration, and in 1998 one of the works for which he had provided the illustrations (Fontaine’s Fables) was nominated for the IBBY Honour List.

Bom Natal, Pai Natal

José Jorge Letria (text);

António Modesto (illustration)

Oporto, Edinter, 1996

[Illustrated short story]

From eight upwards



Children are the Best Thing in the World

O melhor do mundo são as crianças

Manuela Nogueira;

Fernando Pessoa

Lisbon, Edições Assírio & Alvim, 1998

[Poetry and biography]

From nine upwards

The niece of Fernando Pessoa - one of the great twentieth century European poets - Manuela Nogueira gives us a short biography of the poet in which she emphasises his relationship with the world of children. It is preceded by an anthology of his poems for children, and other poems of his accessible to the young, together with other pieces written by the poet during his childhood and early years. The book also contains photographs and other documents belonging to Pessoa.

Manuela Nogueira lives in Lisbon and is the author of various books for children and young people.

Fernando Pessoa was born in Lisbon in 1888 and died there in 1935; he is the most widely known and studied Portuguese poet since Camões. He was the key figure of Portuguese Modernism and has been translated into many other languages. He left a vast legacy of work, consisting of poetry, literary prose, essays, philosophical and political writings, among others.

An Adventure in the Haunted House

The thirty eighth title of the most successful collection in Portugal of stories of mystery and detection (the "An Adventure" series has sold several million copies between 1982 and 1998), this work tells a story in which the heroes are teenagers, the twins and three boys -assisted, it must be added, by two dogs, Caracol and Faial. In this adventure they set off for the countryside where they stay in an old house belonging to a old immigrant from Brazil; the house is reputed to be haunted. Subsequently they have to find an explanation for the strange events, apparently supernatural, which erupt in the middle of the night. Eventually they discover that the source of these goings-on is indeed human and has to do with a matter of inheritance. The book is full of interesting information about the so-called "Brazilian houses" of the eighteenth century and about objects generally associated with the imaginary world of ghosts.

Uma aventura na casa assombrada

Ana Maria Magalhães,

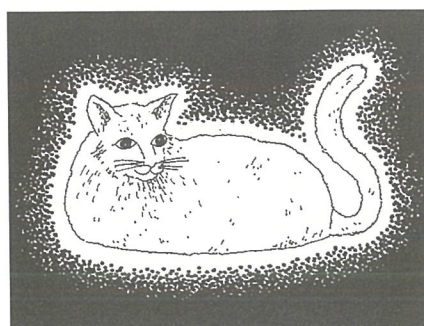
Isabel Alçada (text);

Arlindo Fagundes (illustration)

Lisbon, Editorial Caminho, 1997

[A detective story for the young]

From nine upwards



Ana Maria Magalhães and Isabel Alçada were born in 1946 and 1950 respectively. They have worked as teachers and project co-ordinators in the field of education, and are now the most popular Portuguese authors of fiction for young readers, not only detective stories but also historical (such as the "Travels in Time" series). They have published together more than seventy titles which have had enormous commercial success, as well as two studies on the reading habits of the young.

Their published work shows a fluency of style, well-crafted rather than literary, in which the narrative flows rapidly. Their books are concerned with forming good reading habits and have contributed significantly to the development of reading among young people.

Illustrator, painter and ceramic artist, Arlindo Fagundes lives in the Braga area and has been responsible for the unmistakable style of the illustrations in "An Adventure" and "Travels in Time".

The Witch, the Poet and the Angel



A bruxa, o poeta e o anjo

Mário Cláudio (text);

Alfredo Martins (illustration)

Oporto, Campo das Letras Editores, 1996

[Illustrated short story]

From nine upwards

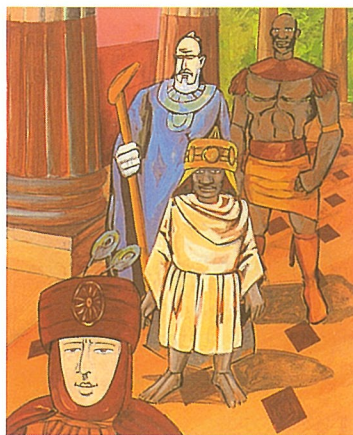
Awarded the National Prize for Illustration in 1997, this book is full of disquiet and mystery. Using almost the exact words of the text we can say that two country children learn that real witches - those who cast the most terrible spells - and real angels - those who watch over our peaceful sleep - are those who "find shelter in the depths of our hearts". In the narrative, rooted in an imaginary, rural world, this revelation is the responsibility of an adult who lifts the veil from their eyes and a poet who fires the imagination of the children with the wonders of his stories and the enchantments of his words.

By means of a fauvist chromaticism the illustrator manages to capture the enigmatic atmosphere of the story, using the play of light and shade, extreme tonalities and strong contrasts in compositions which are sometimes reminiscent of the "pop art" of the sixties and seventies.

Mário Cláudio who lives in Oporto is well known as a poet, playwright and, above all, as a prize-winning novelist. This is his second book for children.

Alfredo Martins is a painter and illustrator, based in Oporto, who won the IPLB/IBBY National Prize for Illustration in 1997.

The Stars



As estrelas

António Torrado (text);

Francisco Lança (illustration)

Oporto, Livraria Civilização Editora, 1996

[A story for young people]

From ten upwards

This work was nominated for the IBBY Honour List in 1998 by the Portuguese Section of the International Board on Books for Young People. The narrative occupies seven chapters and takes the form of a novel with great atmospheric power which attempts to recreate a time - the time when Christ was born - and, in particular, the childhood and daring youth of the Three Kings. Although the author, with the help of a specialist in pre-Classical history, has ensured the "authenticity of the background, the ritual and other details" described in the text, the fact is that the work attempts to fit in "as naturally as a stream into the primitive flow of the legends" surrounding the Three Kings, forming in our opinion, a story of great beauty with the power to move us.

António Torrado was born in Lisbon in 1939 and is the author of many books for adults and children, which are divided between short stories, dramatic pieces, poetry and the retelling of traditional stories from history. He has also written television series and has been awarded several important prizes in the field of children's literature, notably the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize and the Grand Prix for Children's Literature. Skilled in the storyteller's art, António Torrado has a very personal style, not too far from the art of the popular storyteller, as practised by masters of the short story such as Andersen and Italo Calvino. His writing, characterized by a playful tone, is consciously in the oral tradition and is full of humour, winning him many readers.



The Lizard King

Already published in Spain, in Galician, the heroes of The Lizard King are Joel, Jorge and his sister, Joana, known as the “J triangle”; their ages range from 13 to 15. The author starts from the ancient myth of Atlantis as well as from a modern myth, that of Jim Morrison, the lead singer of The Doors, in whose songs the susceptible might find prophecies of the end of the world. On this basis the author builds a fast-moving adventure in which the three heroes, helped by Joel’s father and a member of a society devoted to paranormal investigation, attempt to stop the wicked designs of the Lizard King and his sect. This creature, half animal, half human, wants to destroy the world and create a new one populated by lizards, from whose stock, according to the laws of evolution, it is foreseen will spring a renewed, perfect people. After many vivid and surprising events in Portugal and in the Azores, the “J triangle” triumphs, while now and then the gaze of the narrator and his heroes cannot resist giving us an ironic picture of the generation which grew up in the sixties.

O Rei Lagarto

Álvaro Magalhães (text);

José Pedro Costa (illustration)

Oporto, Edições ASA, 1998

[A mystery and adventure story for young readers]

From ten upwards



Álvaro Magalhães was born in 1951 and lives in Oporto; he is a newspaper columnist but is known primarily for his children’s stories (several of them already published in Galicia), pieces for the theatre, and stories for young people, especially the three volumes in the “J triangle” series. With great ingenuity, weaving between detective and science fiction as well as fantasy, the stories in this collection manage to attract adolescents through the way in which they approach themes such as sexual awakening, fear, death, life in big cities and relationships with adults. We must point out, too, the way in which in the text the author attempts to focus on the complexity of the real and on what we might call its “hidden side”.

José Pedro Costa lives in Oporto and is a young graphic designer and illustrator. Clearly influenced by cartoons and the cinema, his black and white illustrations have made an important contribution to the success of the “J triangle” series.

Vasco da Gama



Written as a dialogue with a group of youths, the adult narrator uses the form of a novel to trace the biography of a figure of worldwide importance: Vasco da Gama. After giving the historical background, and in a clear, fluent fashion, the book deals in particular with the voyage of discovery across the seas to India, following the route taken by Vasco da Gama at the end of the fifteenth century on the orders of the Portuguese king, D. Manuel I.

Luís Almeida Martins was born in 1949 and works in Lisbon as a journalist. He has published, among other things, a novel and a work of political analysis, and has also written for television.

Vasco da Gama

Luís Almeida Martins (text);

André Letria (illustration)

Oporto, Edinter, 1998

[Biography]

From ten upwards



The Pirates

This story and fantasy has already been published in Holland and was made in a play in 1997. The Pirates tells a story inspired by an old legend from Madeira and features two children, Manuel and Ana. Their relationship becomes closer as they are confronted by a web of strange events, real or dreamt, of which the most important is the disappearance of another child, Robert, apparently snatched away by pirates.

In a text published in *JL-Jornal de Letras, Artes e Ideias*, on 13th April, 1987, the work received the following praise from Manuel João Gomes: "It is a faithful illustration of the great ideas of Portuguese fantasy. There is mist and the sea, islands and ships, men and their doubles (...). It is one of the most impressive narratives on the theme of the Double which I have ever come across in Portuguese."

Os piratas

Manuel António Pina (text);
Manuela Bacelar (illustration)
Oporto, Areal Editores, 1986
[Story for young people]

From ten upwards

Manuel António Pina was born in 1943 and lives in Oporto. A notable poet and newspaper columnist he is also one of the most original Portuguese writers of books for children and young people, for which he has already been awarded the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Children's Literature. In this field he has published stories, pieces for the theatre and poetry, having inherited from the Anglo-Saxon and Surrealist traditions an attraction for nonsense. Despite its great depth in terms of content, his work is not without the creative exploration of the ambiguities and playful aspects of language.

Manuel António Pina (text);
Suzanne Rosler (Costume design)
Oporto, Edições Afrontamento /
Pé de Vento Theatre, 1997
[Play for young people]

Ana Marta's Eyes

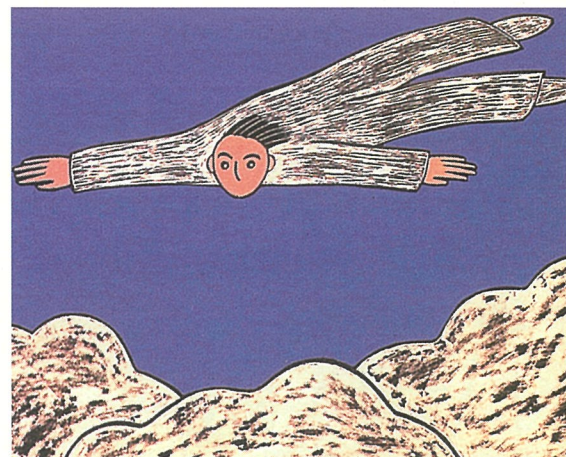
This truly extraordinary work has already been published in German, French, Spanish, Catalan and Galician.

Flávia, Marta's mother, cannot bear to be called mother. For this and other reasons her daughter feels that she is being deprived of affection for deep-seated reasons she cannot fathom out. These reasons have to do with the death of her sister, Ana Marta in a car accident before Marta was born and about which she knows nothing. Therefore her narrative is a kind of conjuring with ghosts, breaking taboos as she tries to recreate, with the help of the maid, Leonor, the story of the family and her own personal history. Only in that way will she be able to discover the reasons for the sadness and anguish which hover over the dark corridors of the house. Only in that way will she be able to understand her mother and father, recover the place which belongs to her in the family and assert her own name and worth.

Os olhos de Ana Marta

Alice Vieira (text);
Cristina Sampaio (illustration)
3^a ed., Lisbon, Editorial Caminho, 1998
[Story for children]

From eleven upwards



For this work Alice Vieira (see the following reference) won the nomination for the IBBY Honour List in 1994. In its German version the book was also shortlisted for the Auswahlliste Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis.

The House of Walking Sticks



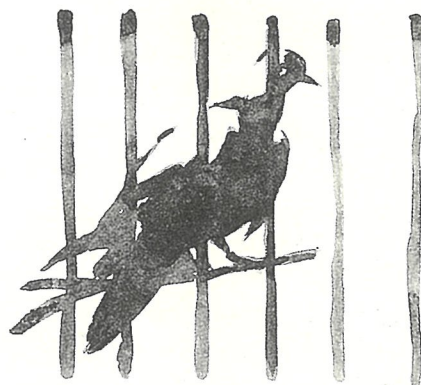
A casa das bengalas

António Mota (text);
Bayard Christ (illustration).
Oporto, Edinter, 1995
[Children's story]

From eleven upwards

This work won the António Botto Prize awarded by the Abrantes Town Hall in 1996; it tells the story of a young boy who lives with his parents in the city, as he observes them critically in their conflicts with his recently widowed grandfather. The old man, having only lived in a village before, is unable to adapt to city life and ends up in an old people's home where he sometimes feels lost and uprooted. Though affected by his situation the grandfather does not however fail to give his grandson the benefit of his wisdom about life and men, while at the same time giving a sterling lesson in human dignity to all those who know him.

António Mota was born in 1957 and lives in a village not far from Oporto. He is the very popular author of stories for teenagers, poetry and short stories for children, which are often based in childhood and youthful experiences in a rural setting. In 1988 he was awarded the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize for Children's Literature.



Doçura amarga

Ana Saldanha (text);
José Pedro Costa (illustration).
Oporto, Edinter, 1997
[Children's story]

From eleven upwards

Bitter Sweet

A family living in the town along with many others, a father who is more or less around, a mother who is overwhelmed with work and social obligations, an older brother with adult pretensions, a younger sister who is rather spoilt, and in the middle, a young girl, Loló, whose illness will put the whole family to the test. Told so as to give us the point of view of an adolescent, this story could be typical of any family these days. The authenticity of the dialogue and the liveliness of the story telling are the distinguishing features of this book.

Ana Saldanha is a prize-winning novelist and translator who has taught Portuguese in British universities. She stands out as one of the discoveries of young people's literature in the nineties, having, in the ten or so books already published, dealt with themes like racial prejudice, the challenge of illness and the problems of intercultural relations.

For **José Pedro Costa** see the reference under The Lizard King.



The Daughters of the Glass Eye

As filhas do olho de vidro

Alberto Oliveira Pinto (text);

Pedro Nogueira (illustration)

Oporto, Livraria Civilização Editora, 1996

[Story for children]

From twelve upwards

An intricate adventure based in historical fact, *The Daughters of the Glass Eye* features characters from the author's own imagination and others based in figures belonging to Portuguese public life in the eighteenth century. In the plot are to be found politicians, privateers, mysterious figures (like the "Glass Eye") and swashbucklers with high ideals -along with other, less noble, instincts. Here and there can be found, too, finely wrought reflections on racial prejudice, arising from the fact that several of the characters are coloured. The

book is distinguished by the rhythm of the narrative, bringing to mind the cloak and dagger adventures in the style of Alexandre Dumas or Ponson du Terrail. This rhythm derives from the rapid succession of events, from bullfights and duels to abductions, torture and mysteries to be solved.

Alberto Oliveira Pinto spent his childhood in Angola and now lives in Lisbon. He is a young, prize-winning novelist and has already published several works, among them some stories for teenagers.

A Plume of Smoke on the Edge of the Sea

This is Alice Vieira's most recent book in which she deals with the themes closest to her heart: the knowledge of a family past, in this case that of Mina, a young girl of sixteen. Almost everything takes place in a TV studio, where some mediocre, but immensely popular, programme is being recorded. In this programme those who have not been in touch with their families or friends for a long time hope to meet them again with the help of the production team. The situations which arise are frequently caricatures. It is in this context that Mina reflects critically on her life and recalls her family past, while she looks forward to meeting a grandmother who is supposed to be very rich and who might help the family with their financial problems. Before the eyes of the child there unrolls a spectacle of televisual alienation, which is also the pretext for a critique of present-day society, which is remarkable for its power of observation and sense of humour.

Um fio de fumo nos confins do mar

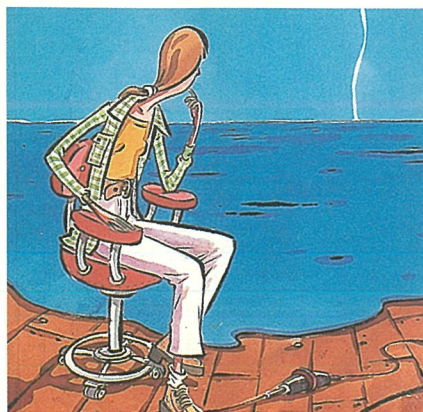
Alice Vieira (text);

José Miguel Ribeiro (Sleeve design)

Lisbon, Editorial Caminho, 1999

[Story for children]

From twelve upwards



Alice Vieira is the best known and most translated Portuguese author of books for children; the quality of her work is unanimously recognized both in Portugal and abroad. She lives in Lisbon where she was born in 1943. Her work, characterized by the universal nature of its themes and situations, deals with the lives of children, adolescents and adults in today's world in realistic fashion, her female figures being especially notable. As well as having won the Calouste Gulbenkian Prize and the Grand Prix for Children's Literature she was also nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Prize in 1996 and 1998.

Joana's Moon

This is a work which has proved extremely popular in Portugal and has been translated into several languages.

Joana is writing letters to a friend who has died from drug abuse; of course, the letters will never be sent. Thus they come to resemble a diary which covers about two years of the life of a young girl in a city; her story ends tragically, as she fights against loneliness, unable to adapt to a frequently hostile world, a world full of teenagers with their problems, like Joana herself, and of adults who neither understand nor pay attention.

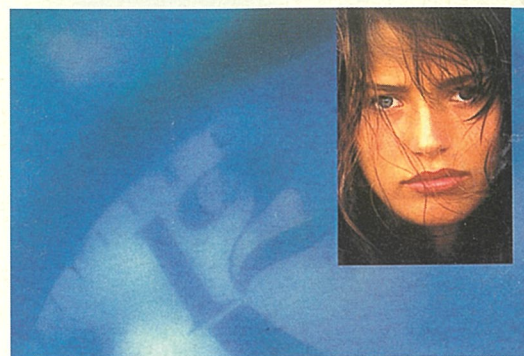
A lua de Joana

Maria Teresa Maia González

6ª ed., Lisbon, Editorial Verbo, 1996

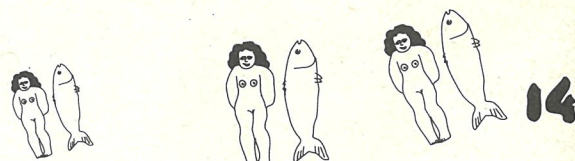
[Story for children]

From thirteen upwards



Maria Teresa Maia González was born in 1958 and lives in Lisbon. She is the co-author of a series of mystery and detective stories which have had great commercial success ("The Club of Keys") and of various novels for children which have been equally popular.

The Diary of Sofia & Co at 15



On her birthday Sofia is given a diary and on 3rd October she decides to start writing in it. This lasts until 30th July when the pages of the diary run out. What is left are the observations and reflections of Sofia about life, hers and those of others, whether they be family, friends or schoolfellows or teachers. However, what this shows of the world is not always pleasant. Despite the humour which characterizes the book, Sofia's words do not hide the prevailing preoccupations of her time, such as unemployment, the use of drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, the destruction of the environment and the loneliness which many people feel.

Luísa Ducla Soares was born in 1939 and lives in Lisbon. For this author consult the reference under The Mysterious Eggs.

O diário de Sofia & Cª aos 15 anos

Luísa Ducla Soares (text);

Pedro Nogueira (illustration)

Oporto, Livraria Civilização Editora, 1994
[Story for children in the form of a diary.]

From thirteen upwards



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