

Children's Books

// Young Adult



A hand selected list of the best Portuguese writing

(Please note that this is a personalized list of works especially picked for you. For the extensive list of authors and works we represent, as well as any information details and book samples, get in touch with Ana Rita Duarte – ana.rita@spautores.pt | | gappa@spautores.pt)

Department
for **Supporting**
the Publishing
and Promotion
of **the Author**

GAPPA

Manuel António Pina

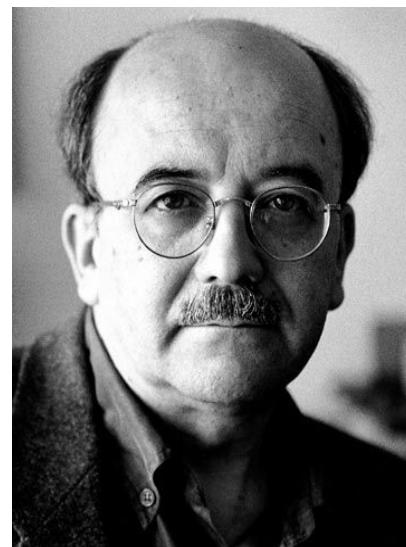
A poet for children. A rich imagination that addresses big themes with nonsense and word play. A writer who believes that having fun is the most serious thing in life.

Manuel António Pina (1943-2013, Sabugal) was one of the few Portuguese writers to win the most important distinction within the Portuguese speaking countries literature, the Camões Prize. He graduated in Law, was an influential journalist and Editor-in-Chief of a national newspaper, but it was as a poet and children's books writer that he won unprecedented prestige amongst the national literary scene.

Pina was translated into Danish, French, Galician and English. During his career he collaborated with the British Film Institute; was the Portuguese translator and editor of fundamental authors like Pablo Neruda, T. S. Eliot and Paul Éluard; and won several prizes of the children's literature genre, namely: the Grand Gulbenkian Prize for Children and Youth Literature (1988), the Jury's Mention of the Pier Paolo Vergerio European Prize (1988), and the Portuguese Centre of Theatre Prize for the Children and Youth (1988). In Portugal, he won in 2001 the Merit Golden Medal of the Porto Municipality. Pina was also part of the official authors' committee representing Portuguese literature at the Frankfurt Book Fair (1997), at the Paris Book Fair (2000) and the Gèneve Book Fair (2001).

Pina's children's literature production is characterized by a singular poetic sensibility that was strongly influenced by the British Nonsense literary style, in particular that of Lewis Carroll.

Pina was a regular collaborator in mediums like the television, for which he wrote scripts for children series; the theatre, having written more than twenty plays; or the education field, with his texts being part of manuals and anthologies in Portugal and Spain.





The Country of the Upside-down People

36 pages

Using humour and nonsense, this book brings together four daring stories that pioneered Portuguese children's literature: The daily life in a country where people live upside-down; a goldfish who wrote a book too hard to be read by his human owner; a Baby Jesus who refused to be God, because that would prevent him from playing like any regular kid; a delicious cake who fights against the sin of gluttony, which prevents people from even touching him.





The Bird of the Head and Other Verses for Children

80 pages

The Bird of the Head gathers several poems for children which are easy to read, but musical and meaningful enough to be remembered. Expressive paintings by the renowned artist Ilda David' accompany the texts.

"Ana wants

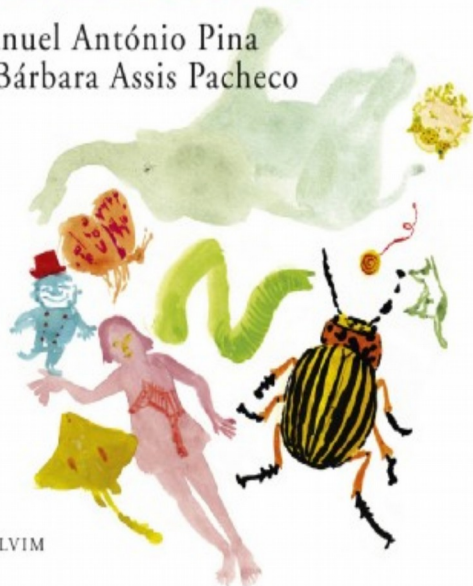
Ana wants / never have been out / from her mother's womb. / Outside feels good, / but in the womb's too / it was fun. // The heart so near at hand / the lungs so near at feet / see how mother is / from the side that can't be seen. // What Ana mostly wants to be / when she's older and grows big / is to be little again: / having nothing much to do / besides being little and grow big / and sometimes be born / and unborn once again."



O TÊPLUQUÊ E OUTRAS HISTÓRIAS

textos de Manuel António Pina
ilustrações de Bárbara Assis Pacheco

ASSÍRIO & ALVIM



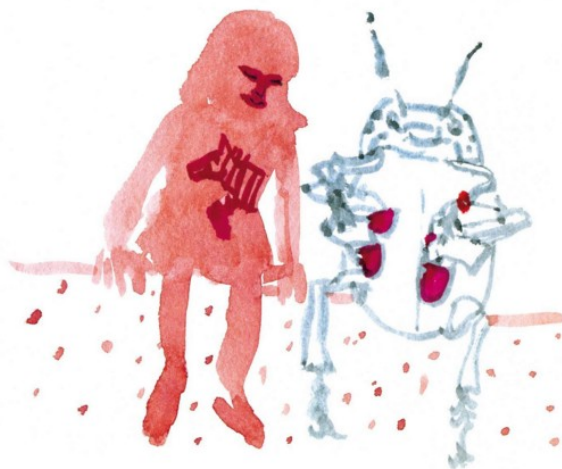
— Perguntas-me as horas, se fazes favor?
— Está bem — disse a Sara. — Quantas horas são?
O escaravelho olhou para o relógio e disse:
— É uma hora e meia.
À Sara parecia que era **mais tarde** e disse:
— Parece-me que é mais tarde.
— Está de facto a fazer-se cada vez mais tarde —
concordou o escaravelho. — É melhor sentar-me um
pouco a descansar.

The Tinsteadqwuh and Other Stories

96 pages

Since they were little the letters have been taught the alphabetical order. When they asked the big letters why As had always to be the first and Zs always the last, the big letters answered that there isn't really a reason for that. But how come the order must always stay the same, why can't letters decide differently now and then?

This is a book where linguistic games and imagination plays along to tell fantastical stories of our language and the weird beings inhabiting it.



José Jorge Letria

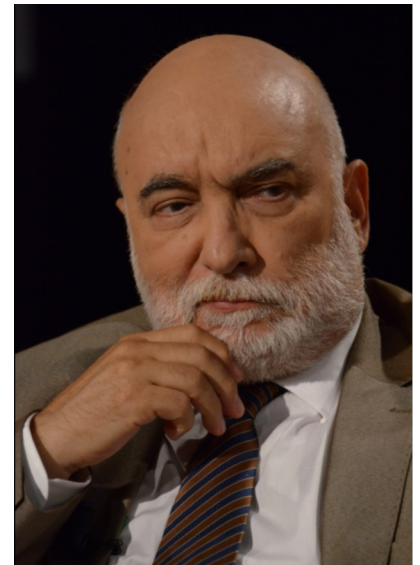
200 books + 40 years career + extensive collaborations with promising new illustrators.

José Jorge Letria (1951, Cascais), a prolific author with more than 200 books and 40 years of literary activity, is better known for his poetry and vast children and youth books writing production. The author has books translated into more than a dozen languages and was published by such distinguished publishers as Albin Michel.

A coordinator of radio and television programmes, Letria has been part of the developing team behind the Portuguese Sesame Street. His notoriety within the big audiences were accompanied by dozens of national and international prizes, namely the Unesco International Prize, having also been invited to be part of the European jury of the European Union Literary Prize.

Letria is a member of the World Literary Academy and has participated in the Editorial Commission of the Blank Book on European Cultural Politics. He is the president of the Portuguese Society of Authors and of the CISAC European Committee, and a member of the European Group Direction of Societies of Authors and of the Executive Committee of the Writers and Directors Worldwide.

He was awarded in Portugal and France with the Order of Freedom and the Internationale des Arts et des Lettres medal.



ESTRAMBÓLICOS

ANDRÉ LETRIA E JOSÉ JORGE LETRIA



Weirdlings

36 pages

Sixteen Weirdlings that divide in three and combine as they will. They are sixteen Weirdlings to the cube, which makes for 4096 Weirdlings to be discovered in different combinations as pages are turned forth and back.





Grandpa, Read It Again

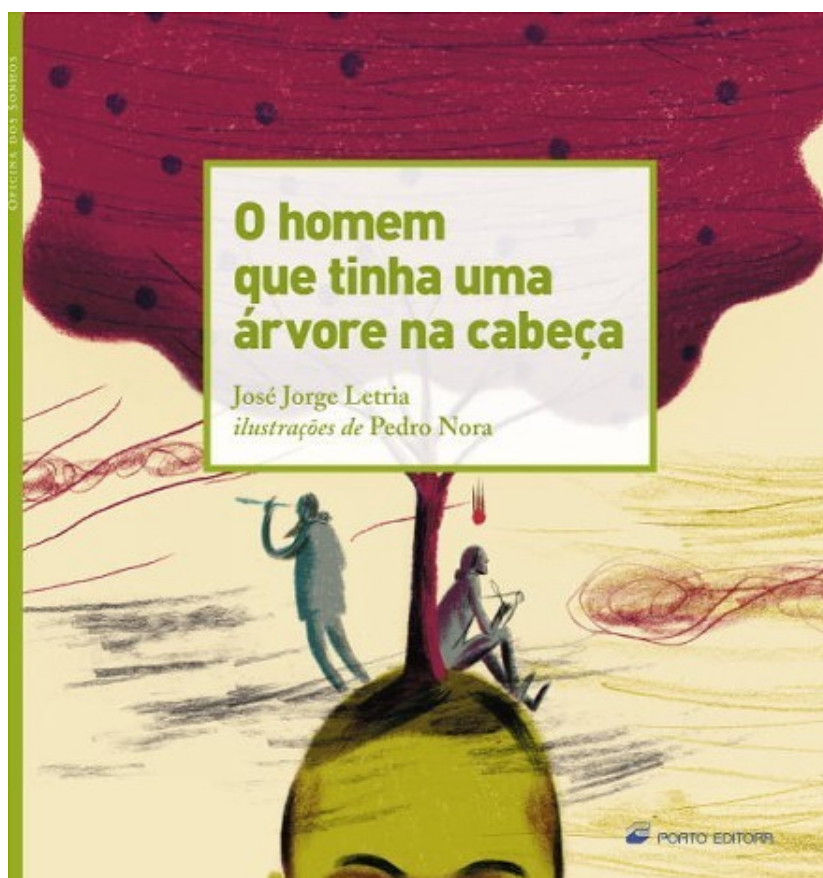
40 pages

In this book lives a poem that a tender grandfather have dedicated to his grandson. As the little boy grows up with “stars in the eyes and swallows in the smile”, listening to the many new words of his grandfather's text, they start developing a special bound that will last forever.

E também entram duendes
no enredo dessas lendas
que quando são bem contadas
são tão belas como prendas.

E quando eu enfim as contar,
enquanto tu as não lês,
só espero ouvir-te dizer:
“Ó avô, conta outra vez”.





The Man Who Had a Tree in His Head

36 pages

Imagine a man called Streeve to whom, one day, a tree began growing on top of his head. This unusual phenomenon happens in a world that needs more and more its scientific culture in order to understand all natural events that may seem odd to us, and while preparing for what the future may unfold.

JOSÉ JORGE LETRIA

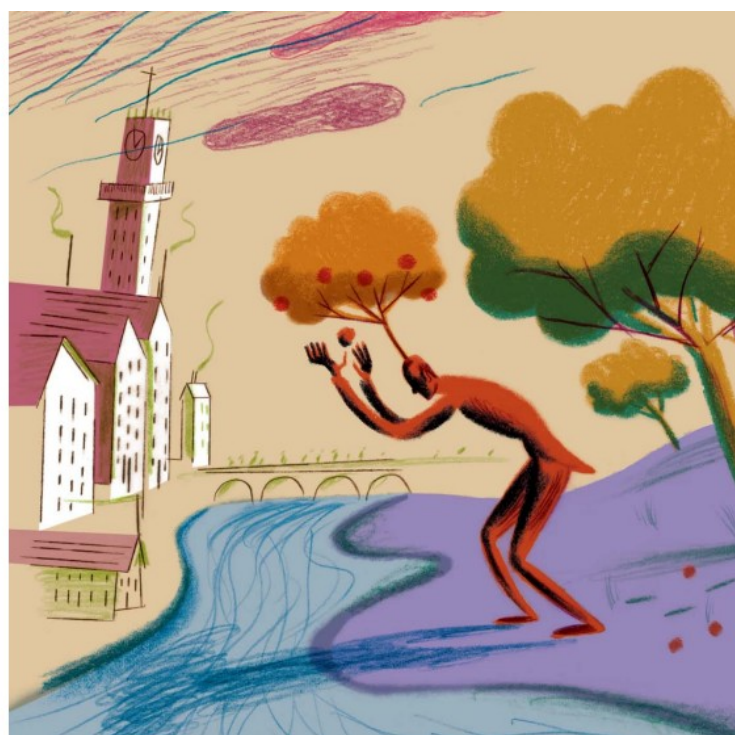
O homem não era alto nem forte. A sua pele era pálida e faltava uma luz que minasse os seus olhos e tirasse deles a tristeza que os tornava mortiços e graves. Era um homem de muito poucas falas e, talvez por isso, poucas pessoas sabiam o seu nome. Chamava-se Tenório, mas, como tinha uma árvore na cabeça, passaram a chamá-lo por outro nome, mais engraçado e fácil de decorar: Arbóreo.

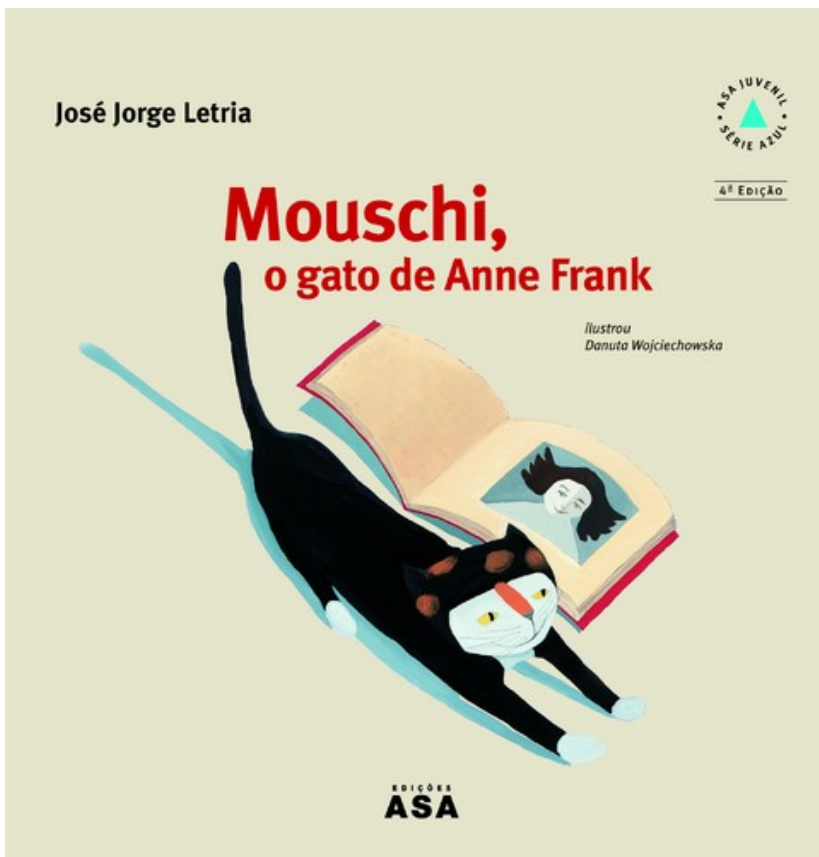
O homem não gostava do nome, mas não tinha possibilidade de escolher outro. Fora inventado pela maioria das pessoas que o conheciam, que com ele se divertiam na rua, que o viam debruçado à janela e que o confundiam com a mancha verde das florestas e dos jardins. Que havia ele de fazer? Chamavam-lhe Arbóreo e era por esse nome, e só por ele, que ia ficar conhecido.

Um dia, quando a Primavera estava à porta, Arbóreo gostou do cheiro adocicado que lhe entrava pelas narinas e pensou: de onde virá este cheiro tão doce, tão bom? Não encontrou resposta. Aquele cheiro abria-lhe o apetite e proporcionava-lhe um grande bem-estar. De onde viria ele?

Levou a mão até aos ramos da árvore que tinha na cabeça e sentiu umas folhas macias e arredondadas. Como na terra onde vivia existiam poucos espelhos, olhou até ao rio e, esperando que as águas estivessem calmas, viu nelas a sua imagem reflectida. Então exclamou: "São frutos!"

Eram realmente frutos, embora não fossem nem pêsegos, nem peras, nem



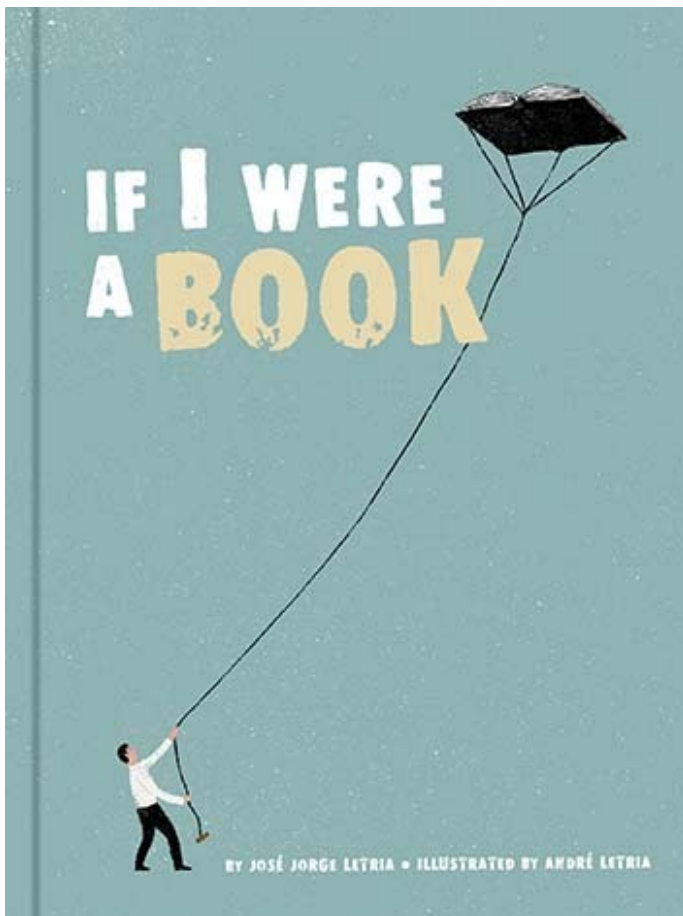


Mouschi, Anne Frank's Cat

38 pages

Mouschi was a real cat that was brought as company to Anne Frank's captivity by her young companion Peter van Pels. The day-to-day life in a small refuge, the routine of a group of people hiding from the Nazi terror and the hope for the freedom that never came, are told by the voice of a pet that has become the singular witness of a human tragedy.





If I Were a Book

64 pages

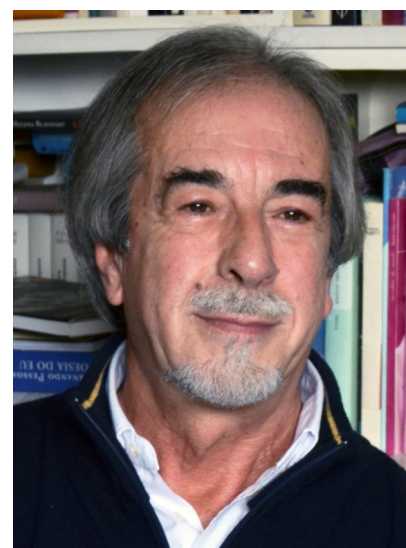
This sweet celebration of the magic and wonder of reading portrays books as kites, tents, and ships. A book becomes a mountaintop with a spectacular vista ("If I were a book, I'd be full of new horizons"), and an endless staircase of imagination ("If I were a book, I would not want to know at the beginning how my story ends"). Seamlessly weaving together art and prose, this petite tribute to a reader's best friend makes a timeless addition to every bookshelf.



Álvaro Magalhães

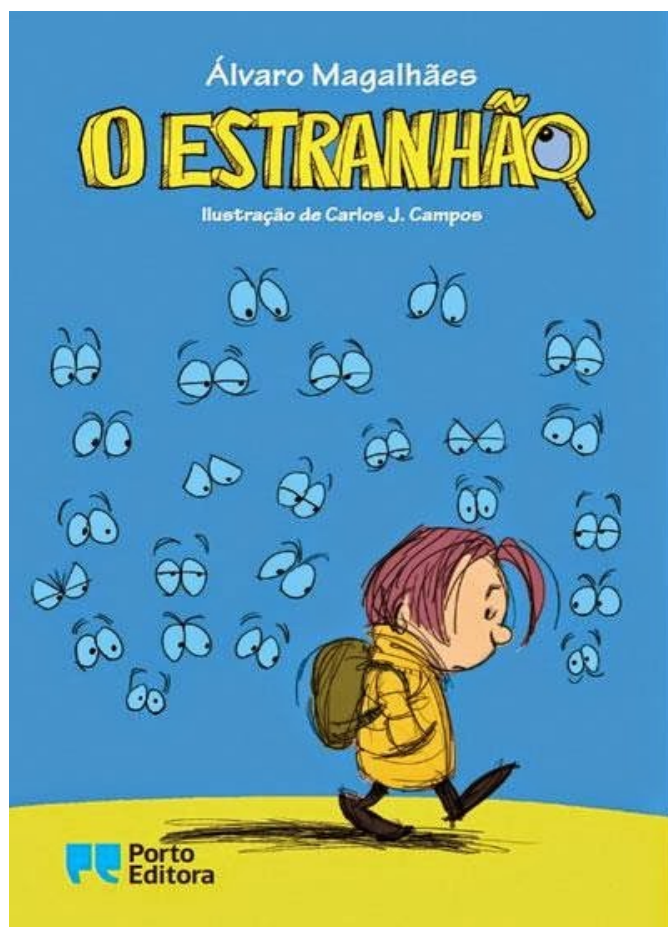
Fun & daring. For angry kids, creative kids, and everyone else who thinks no one can possibly understand their souls.

Álvaro Magalhães (1951, Porto) is particularly well known in Portugal for the youth book series Jay Triangle, which has reached a million readers and been adapted for the Portuguese public television RTP in 2012. With a 30 years career and almost 80 books written, the author has been getting increasing international attention and is already published in Spain, France, Brazil and South Korea.



Able of a great flexibility in his writing, which in some youth books results in a fast paced and action-centred story telling and in some children books it's the poetic sensibility that predominates, Álvaro Magalhães got recognized in 2002 by the Hans Christian Anderson Prize of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) while entering their Honour List. In Portugal, the author was awarded with several literary prizes by the Portuguese Writers Association, the Cultural Ministry and, more recently, by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, having been the recipient of the Grand Prize of Children and Youth Literature.

His books are authentic works of language, where the playfulness of words, concepts and sounds are always part of a thrilling narrative that catches young readers senses. Álvaro Magalhães has books in the short-story, poetry, narrative stories and theatre plays genres.



The Strangeton

192 pages

Fred, the Strangeton, is a 11 years old boy with a high IQ who is committed to tell his strange life story with words and drawings, while reflecting in a perhaps too scientific manner on the meaning of it all.

His major aim is to lead a normal life, without turnovers, and while his quest for understanding all the peculiarities of his lifestyle takes place, his friends will learn on the way that to be different is actually a sign of originality rather than of being weird.



E eu é que sou o Estranhão?

Viva! Eu sou o Frederico, que era o nome do meu avô, o Fred para a família e para os amigos (e para vocês também). Mas sou mais conhecido por Estranhão. Sendo eu um rapaz como outro qualquer, apenas com um Q.I. acima da média, isso é, no mínimo, estranho, não?

Sim, tenho as minhas manias, ou eu não seria eu, mas outro qualquer, com outras manias: dou-me com pouca gente, gosto de estar só para escrever poemas ou histórias malucas e inventar coisas que não há e que me fazem falta; e tudo isso é, para a maioria das pessoas, bastante estranho. Dizem que sei coisas de mais para alguém com o meu tamanho.

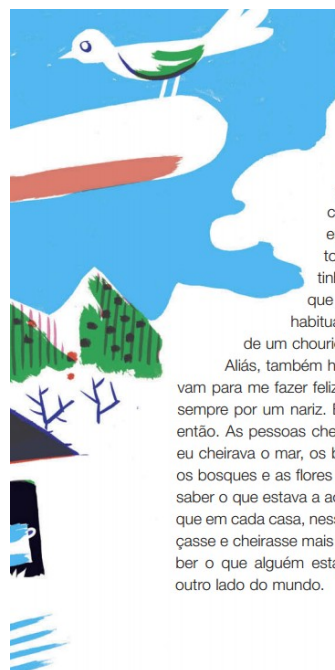




The Master of His Nose and other stories

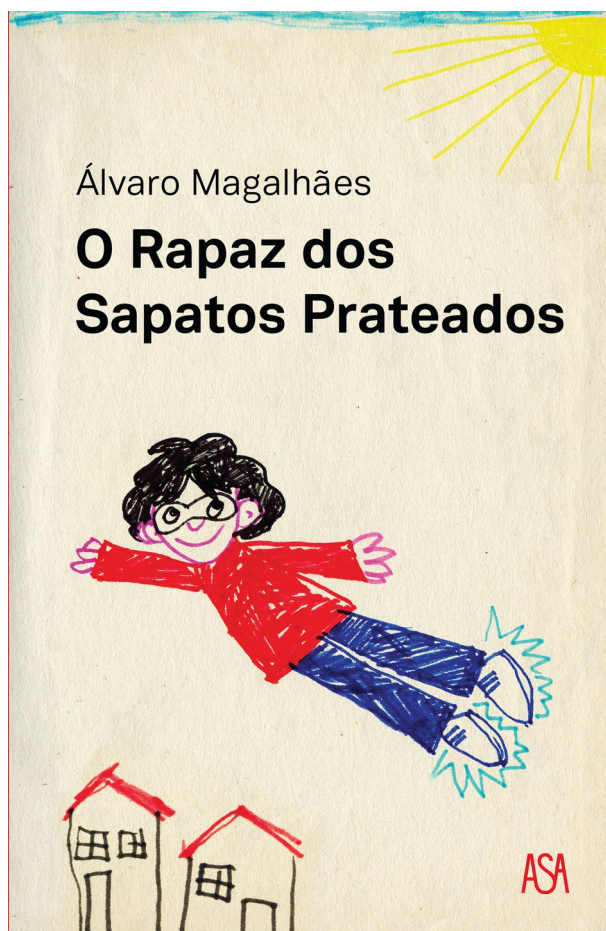
60 pages

A boy carries a nose the size of a huge sausage, but that which seemed initially bad luck or a curse ends up revealing itself as a blessing. This book addresses how we can turn our faults into advantages, always with a fun and imaginative approach that is stressed by the colourful drawings of João Fazenda.



E não era em todo o lado que cabíamos os dois. Havia sítios onde só ele ia. Eu esperava, cá fora. Ou vice-versa. Tanta vez que isso aconteceu: ou entrava ele ou entrava eu. E não era só isso. Ele chegava antes de mim a todo o lado. Quando eu entrava já ele tinha lá estado. Era aborrecido, não digo que não, mas habituei-me, que a gente habitua-se a tudo. Até a um nariz do tamanho de um chouriço. Por isso...

Aliás, também havia coisas que corriam bem e chegavam para me fazer feliz. Nas corridas, por exemplo, ganhava sempre por um nariz. E, claro, cheirava como ninguém, pois então. As pessoas cheiravam o mar, os bosques e as flores, eu cheirava o mar, os bosques e as flores, como nem o mar, os bosques e as flores sabem que são. Mas havia mais: para saber o que estava a acontecer bastava-me cheirar. E sabia o que em cada casa, nesse dia, havia para o jantar. Se me esforçasse e cheirasse mais forte, mais fundo, era capaz de perceber o que alguém estava a fazer num recanto qualquer do outro lado do mundo.



The Boy of the Silver Sneakers

208 pages

A boy feels too special and intelligent to even be the child of his parents, who obliges him to do all the useless and annoying things in life: going to school, their obsession with his personal hygiene, caring about some odd future for him without even asking if he actually believes in growing up and becoming an adult. While he can't do a DNA test to prove they aren't his real parents and finally live an independent life, the boy will try to contradict anyone imposing responsibilities and burdens on him.

Coisas pelas quais vale a pena viver

- ✓ A rapariga dos olhos cor de avelã da minha rua
- ✓ Unicórnios, mesmo que digam que não existem
- ✓ O sabor das cerejas
- ✓ Animais, que são inocentes toda a vida
- ✓ Crianças, claro
- ✓ Imaginar coisas
- ✓ Brincar
- ✓ O meu urso Tim
- ✓ O silêncio, quando precisamos de silêncio
- ✓ A poesia, seja lá o que for

Coisas pelas quais não vale a pena viver

- ✓ A escola
- ✓ Os horários escolares, com aulas às 8h30
- ✓ Os dias de chuva miudinha em que não se pode ir para o recreio
- ✓ As constipações
- ✓ O excesso de grunhos à face da Terra
- ✓ Tripas à moda do Porto
- ✓ Carregar a mochila da escola ao fim do dia
- ✓ O 2º Ciclo
- ✓ Ter de cortar as unhas das mãos e dos pés todas as semanas
- ✓ O futuro, de uma maneira geral (ser adulto, trabalhar e isso)

Cheguei a imaginar coisas assim:



Luísa Ducla Soares

Pedagogy combined with the pleasures of early reading.

Luísa Ducla Soares (1939, Lisboa), a graduate of Germanic Philology, is one of the head figures of the Portuguese children's books literature, having now more than a hundred published titles. Her books usually get re-printed in numerous editions and are translated in several languages, with the French, Catalan, Basque and Galician being the most representative.



Ducla Soares has been developing crucial work in promoting reading amongst young people, namely through collaborations with the Education Ministry cabinets of consecutive Portuguese governments and by coordinating different projects for the Portuguese National Library where she worked from 1979 to 2009. Luísa Ducla Soares is also the founder of the Institute for Children Support and collaborated with several children's books for the Portuguese Institute of the Books and Libraries and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Grand Prize for the Work of a Lifetime (1996), or the Portuguese Society of Authors' Honour Prize (2009), are amongst the most prestigious distinctions Ducla Soares won.

The regular visits to schools and libraries, the participation in musical initiatives or in publications like the Sesame Street magazine (from 1990-5), and the highlighted place of some of her books within the National Reading Plan list have contributed for making Luísa Ducla Soares a reference author amongst young readers.

Luísa Ducla Soares
Ilustração de Catarina Correia Marques



Uma História de Dedos



A Fingers' Story

32 pages

Fingers should be treated like real people, as all of them have specific functions and strong personalities. They are: Tommy Thumb, Peter Pointer, Toby Tall, Ruby Ring, and Baby Small. This book presents each one of them, showing how characteristic they are alone, and how useful they can be when living and working together.

Nós somos os dedos!

Mata-Piolhos ou POLEGAR

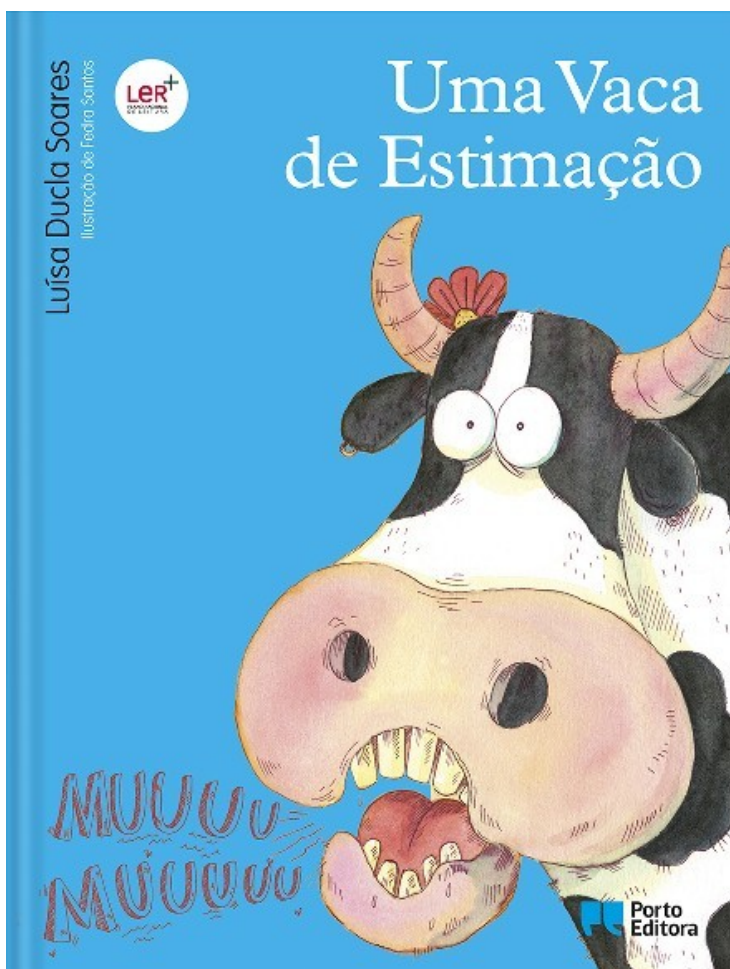
Fura-Bolos ou INDICADOR

Pai de Todos ou MÉDIO

Seu-Vizinho ou ANELAR

Mindinho ou MÍNIMO



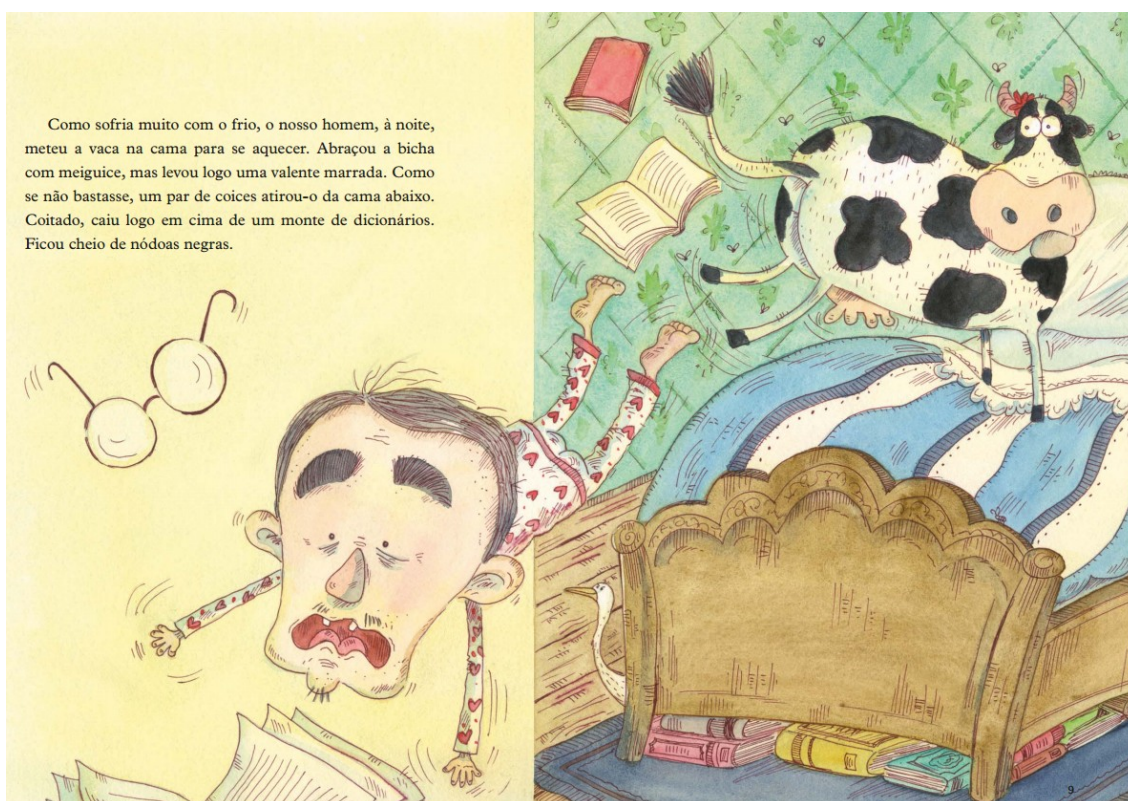


A Cow Pet

32 pages

Pets are the perfect animals for company, but how would it go if we tried having a cow hanging in the living room? An old professor tried exactly this when he brought one to his apartment stuffed with books.

Daily life then becomes a series of incidents where tripping in a book and making the house shake like an earthquake has just passed becomes a normal event.





The Soldier João

32 pages

This is not a story about a brave and invincible warrior who dreams to fight for glory. The soldier João was a simple boy who liked everyone and wished only to live in peace. He has now to learn how to escape the orders from the sergeant, the captain, and the general who demands him to go fight in the war. In a time when João was all about solidarity, happiness and humour how much will he be able to resist?



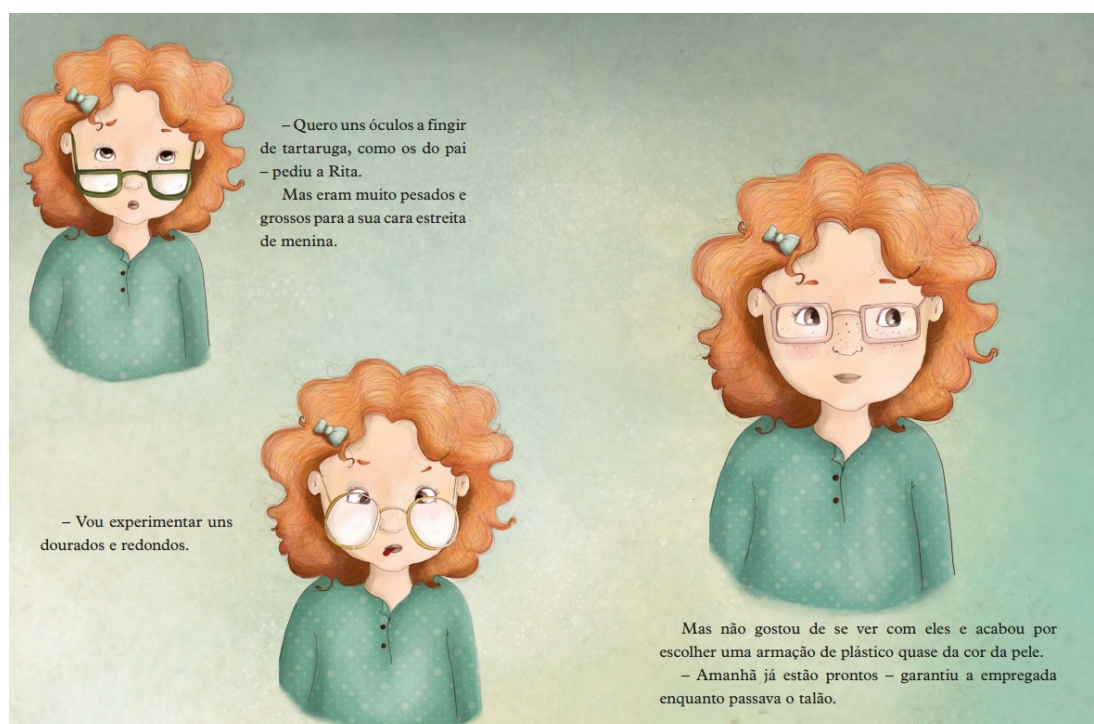


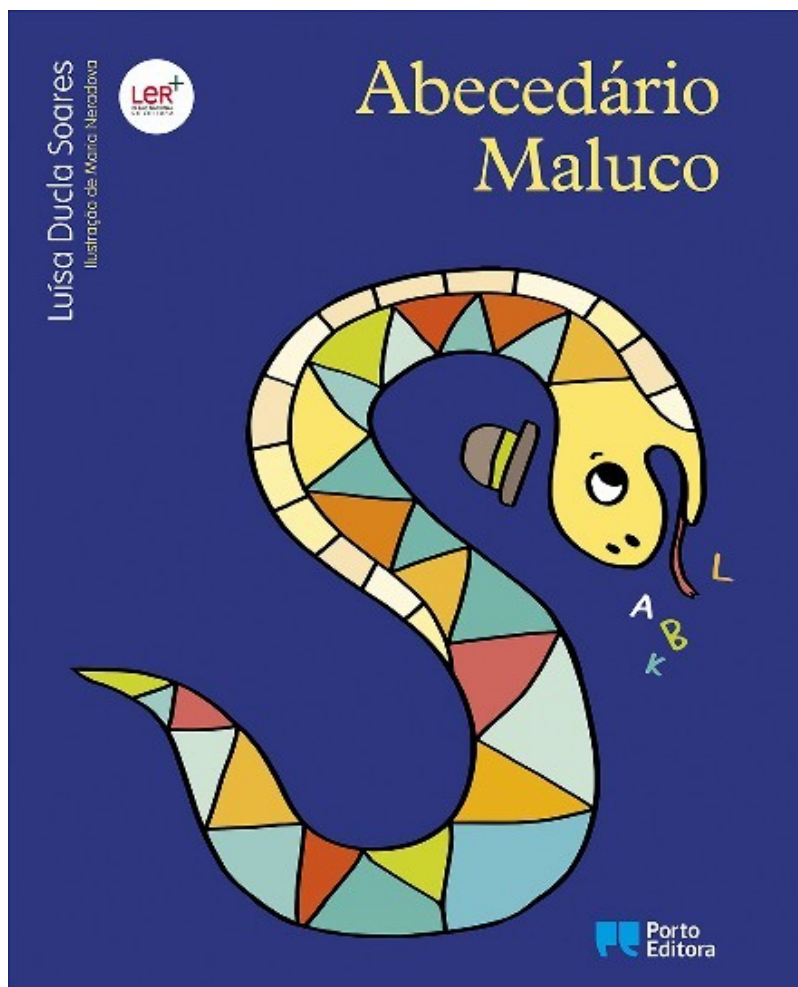
Glasses for Rita

32 pages

There are kids who resist using glasses because they think it will make them look silly. What they don't realise is that glasses make their eyes stand out and gain new abilities. With them the world suddenly becomes richer, sharper and much colourful. They are then able to see the ant's fuss during its work, the shirt's button which fell in the carpet without notice, and the invisible round hat of the letter i.

From little kids unaware of the secret things the world contains they become better observers, almost like they have earned a superpower.





Crazy ABC

32 pages

Words are just as good fun as toys can be. The crazy letters in this book were drawn as if they got bored from sitting in grammars and dictionaries, brought now to life in the shape of animals, making funny sounds and trying to catch children's attention to their infinite possibilities and playfulness.



Mário de Carvalho

Magic realism meets children literature. By the Portuguese Borges.

Mário de Carvalho (1944, Lisboa) is, most probably, the best living short story writer of the Portuguese language. A graduate in Law, the author had an intense political activity before dedicating his life to fiction writing, with his departure to exile after the students fights against the dictatorship regime being one of the most important episodes in his life, as well as the return to Portugal when the democratic Carnation Revolution of 1974 occurred.



Mário de Carvalho is currently published in 11 countries with works on different genres: novel, short story, children writing and playwriting (his plays have been put on stage in Portugal and abroad).

Owner of an impressive erudition and with a perfect command of the Portuguese language workings, he is the author of 25 books, nine of them having been multiple times awarded. His sophisticated irony, the universality of his themes and inventive abilities – sometimes reminding us of the fantastic atmospheres depicted by Jorge Luis Borges or inspired in the Portuguese literature classics – have resulted in translations of his books into the main market's languages: English, French, German, Italian, and others.

Amongst the most important prizes Mário de Carvalho won, it included: the Grand Prize of Short Story and Novel of the Portuguese Association of Authors, the Internazionale Città di Cassino Prize (Italy), the Pegasus Prize for Literature, the Portuguese Pen Club Prize of Fiction, and the Vergílio Ferreira Prize for his lifetime written production. More recently, in 2014, he was distinguished with the Order of Saint James of the Sword for literary merit.

Mário de Carvalho coordinated post-graduate courses in playwriting, as well as several workshops in fiction writing, and was a university professor for several years.



The Man who swallowed the Moon

32 pages

At the Sardinyard alley the universal physical laws seem a little bit more flexible than anywhere else, which means that the man who by chance opened his mouth in a slightly wider yawn than expected got to swallow by accident the whole moon.

Após, olhou para o céu e bocejou um desses bocejos do tamanho de uma casa, escancarando muito a bocarra que era considerada uma das mais competitivas da zona oriental. E aconteceu aquilo da Lua.

Deslocou-se um bocadinho, assim como quem se desequilibrou, entrou a descer devagar, ressaltou numa ponta de nuvem, que por ali pairava feita parva, e foi enfiar-se inteirinha na boca do Andrade, que só fez “gulp” e esbugalhou muito os olhos.



Hélia Correia

A global literary sensibility. With acute historical and cultural awareness. Carries the ancient Greece tradition with her.

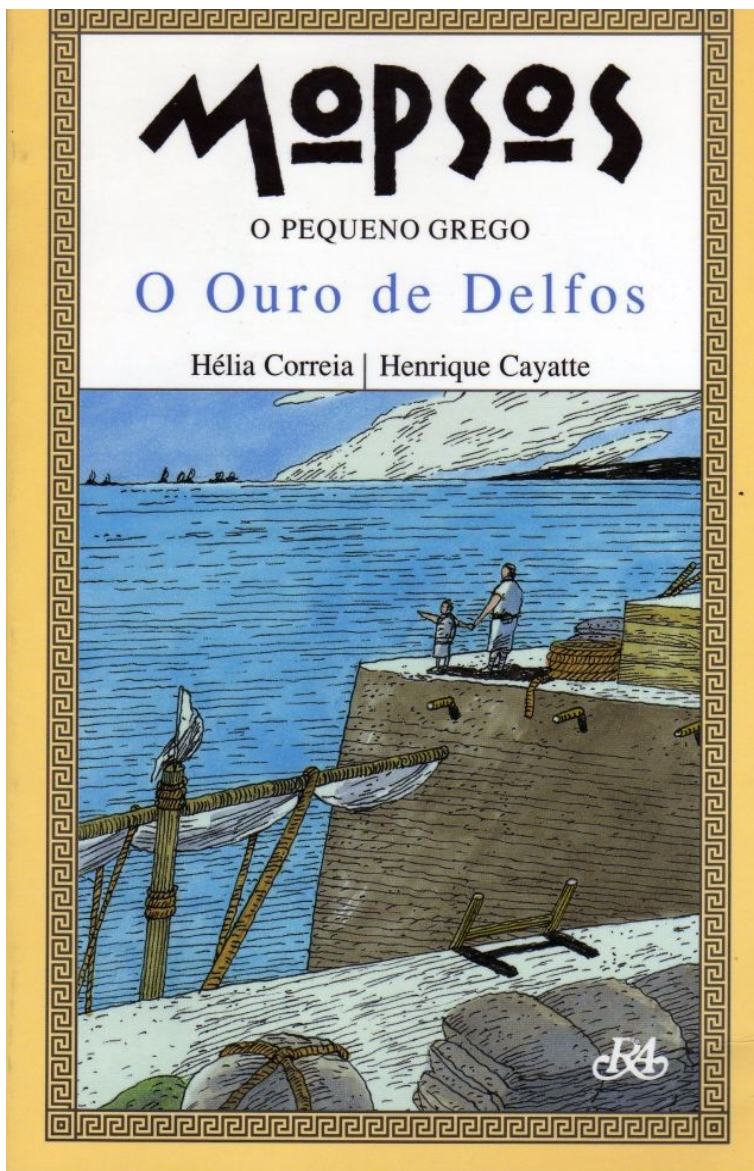
Hélia Correia (1949, Lisboa), a graduate in Romanic Philology, is the 2015 recipient of the most important prize of the Portuguese language literature, the Camões Prize. Correia is considered a reference of the modern Portuguese fiction, and is one of today's most prominent national writers.

Correia adopts a socially committed approach in her works, usually showing great historical awareness of past world conflicts and of intricate political and cultural tensions where the poor, the refugees, and the oppressed are the main characters of her stories.

In her playwriting works, Correia's love for ancient Greece stands out as a major influence. Hélia Correia has also written poetry, children literature, and was the translator of Shakespeare, Adelaide Garcia Morales and Juan Carlos Onetti.

She was awarded several times for her books, having won the Pen Clube Prize (2001), the Máxima Prize of Literature (2006), the Virgílio Ferreira Prize for her lifework (2013), The Correntes d'Escritas / Casino da Povia Prize (2013), the Grand Prize Camilo Castelo Branco (2015), amongst others.





Mopsos, The Little Greek: The Delfos Gold

140 pages

The Delfos Gold is the first volume of a collection of books inspired in the ancient Greece literary tradition and its mythological characters, intended for young readers and those interested in new fictional universes which recovers this heritage.

Mopsos, who comes from a family of fortune tellers, decides to go on his first trip to Tebas when he is 8 years old. Accompanied by his blind grandfather Tiresias, the most important of all Greek tellers, they eventually reach the Apolo sanctuary in Delfos where an unpredicted adventure will challenge young Mopsos' maturity .

Department
for **Supporting**
the Publishing
and Promotion
of **the Author**

GAPPA

This Department is a branch of the Portuguese Society of Authors (SPA), whose main function is to promote and sell internationally literary works in Portuguese language.

For general inquiries, for requesting our fiction / non-fiction catalogues, and for rights terms and questions, feel free to **contact us**:

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