



Gianni Rodari

Edizioni EL
Einaudi Ragazzi
Emme Edizioni



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New Titles and Back List



Favole al telefono - *Tales on the Phone*

illustrated by Bruno Munari, 132 pages, age 6+

Every night, at nine o'clock, wherever he is, Mr. Bianchi, an accountant in a company, rings his daughter up and tells her a story. There are seventy short stories, one for each phone call. Every story is set in a different place and in a different time, with unusual and unconventional characters. A wonderful mix of reality and vivid fantasy.

Rights sold: German, Castilian, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Japanese, Portuguese, Greek, Korean, Lithuanian, Bulgarian, Russian, Serbian, French, Chinese Simple, Hebrew, Bosnian, Polish, Turkish, Czech.



Le avventure di Cipollino *The Adventures of Cipollino*

Cipollino is a young onion who could not go to school, so he goes out into the real world, trying to understand where evil and good lie. It will not take him long to see that evil is a characteristic of Prince Lemon and his henchmen, like the Cavalier Tomato. Cipollino fights and overcomes the arrogance of Prince Lemon and in the end founds a Republic.

pages 176,
age 7+

Rights sold: French, Catalan, Castilian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Korean, Japanese, Georgian, Vietnamese, Chinese Simple, Chinese Complex, Turkish, Russian, German, Lithuanian, Latvian, Czech, Ukrainian, Albanian, Byelorussian, Polish, Greek, Estonian.



C'era due volte il barone Lamberto *Twice upon a time there was baron Lamberto*

III. by Bruno Munari.

Old Baron Lamberto is very rich and ill. He lives with his butler in a villa on the island of San Giulio. He has to reckon with his avid nephew, with terrible bandits and with a crowd of people that keep repeating his name.

pages 112,
age 11+

Rights sold: English (worldwide), Castilian, Catalan, French, Portuguese (Brazil only), Russian, Chinese Simple, Turkish.



Gelsomino nel paese dei bugiardi *Gelsomino in the Land of Liars*

There is somewhere and sometime that land of liars, where bread is ink, where green is red, where the dogs mew and the cats bark. Just imagine what happens in a country like that when Gelsomino, accustomed to 'telling things the way they are' arrives. One of Gianni Rodari's most amusing stories.

pages 160,
age 7+

Rights sold: Latvian, Russian, Vietnamese, Catalan, Castilian, Ukrainian, Chinese Complex, Chinese Simple, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Turkish.



La torta in cielo *A Pie in the Sky*

III. by Bruno Munari.

A little town is deranged by a mysterious 'flying saucer'. Adults think of an alien invasion and are ready to call in the army, scientists and researchers. But two children don't believe it is an alien invasion and the facts prove them right: it's not a "flying saucer" at all, but a huge and tasty pie, that they will eat with lots of friends.

pages 112,
age 9+

Rights sold: French, Castilian, Catalan, Bulgarian, Japanese, Albanian, Chinese Simple, Turkish, Portuguese (Brazil only), Vietnamese, Russian, Ukrainian.



Filastrocche in cielo e in terra *Nursery Rhymes in Sky and Earth*

III. by Bruno Munari.

Out of Rodari's hat, here we have a collection of short poems in which the fantastic world of the Author is showing in all its wittiness. Like an expert conjurer, Rodari surprises the reader page after page with new characters, funny sketches, eclectic visions of daily life. A triumph of humor and intelligence.

pages 160,
age 6+

Rights sold: French, Castilian.



Il pianeta degli alberi di Natale *The Christmas Tree Planet*

III. by Bruno Munari.

Marco lands on a planet where every day it's Christmas Day and where trees are decorated with sweets and festoons. Here whatever you need is free, and technology serves men. Back from his journey, he brings with him the wish to see Earth transformed into a wonderful planet of Christmas Trees. A great lesson of justice by Gianni Rodari.

pages 144,
age 9+

Rights sold: Castilian, French, Greek, Russian.



Le avventure di Tonino l'invisibile *The Adventures of Tonino the Invisible*

Three stories dedicated to the unknown continent of childhood, to its electrifying adventures, melancholy, secrets. The young protagonists, where everyday life mingles with incredible invention, are children from the past, but like all children they live in a parallel world inaccessible to adults, unless they have the talent and imagination of Gianni Rodari.

pages 64,
age 6+

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Chinese Simple, Polish, Turkish.



Il libro degli errori *The Book of Errors*

III. by Bruno Munari.

Short stories and rhymes about "funny" mistakes made by inattentive pupils, boring teachers or sportsmen, all not altogether comfortable with grammar rules. Have a good laugh!

pages 160,
age 9+

Rights sold: Russian.



La freccia azzurra *The Blue Arrow*

The blue arrow is an electric train, the finest toy in the toy shop. Francesco will never have enough money to buy it. But a toy dog and a wise Indian Chief have read his thoughts. One night the toys escape from the shop. A crowd of toy characters throngs the splendid carriages of the Blue Arrow and its journey is protected by cowboys and Indians. The adventures of Francesco and the army of toys will only come to a surprising end at dawn.

pages 152,
age 7+

Rights sold: French, Castilian, Catalan, Bulgarian, Korean, Bosnian (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Croatian, Russian, Albanian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Chinese Complex, Chinese Simple, Japanese, Turkish.



Tante storie per giocare *Lots of Stories to Play Around With*

This is the best-known of Gianni Rodari's 'flights of imagination' for his young public: twenty stories each with three different endings with an explicit invitation to use your imagination to invent others. At the end of the book the author himself comments on the various endings, introducing his readers to the workshop of a storyteller.

pages 176,
age 7+

Rights sold: Castilian, French, Chinese Simple, Portuguese (Brazil only), Russian, Japanese, Greek, Turkish.



Fiabe lunghe un sorriso
Tales long as a Smile

More than fifty tales, some short, some a bit longer, all marked by the imagination and creative talent that have made Rodari one of children's favourite authors.

pages 176,
age 5+

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Chinese Simple.



Il libro dei perché
The Book of Why's

Why don't fish drown? Why are grown-ups always right? Why doesn't my dad ever win the football pools? "The game of why is the oldest in the world" warns Rodari, "Children shoot theirs like a machine gun." The writer dedicated to the questions children sent him in a successful weekly column in which each 'why', rather than being liquidated by sensible, adult answers, became a pretext for nursery rhymes, stories and fantastic inventions.

pages 192,
age 8+

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Chinese Simple, Russian, Portuguese (Brazil).



Prime fiabe e filastrocche
First Tales and Nonsense Rhymes

From a dull and colourless reality, Rodari moves into a world of fireworks and surprises. We'll meet miracle plants, extraordinary characters and strange places. A real fantasy masterpiece.

pages 88,
age 7+

Rights sold: German, Castilian, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Valencian, Chinese Simple.



Il gioco dei quattro cantoni
Puss-in-the-Corner

A collection of amusing short stories where a cow eats the rainbow, there are flying carpets, a mermaid in love with humans... Thanks to a skillful and simple style, children can approach surrealist fiction and learn to play with words.

pages 200,
age 9+

Rights sold: Chinese Simple.



Venti storie più una
Twenty Stories plus one

The numerous protagonists of this collection of stories live in a world that swings between fables and reality, between adventure and daily life. The stories are told by Rodari at his best, inventive and humorous.

pages 178,
age 7+

Rights sold: Russian, Ukrainian, Castilian, Chinese Simple, Greek, Japanese.



Atalanta - Atalanta

Atalanta is present in the myths best known and loved by the young. She follows the ship of the Argonauts and Jason when they win the Golden Fleece, she oversees Hercules in his labours, Theseus' battle with the Minotaur and many other adventures. Atalanta shows us a 'different' Rodari, as he deals with stories taken from classic mythology, to which he brings his humour.

pages 96,
age 8+

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Chinese Simple.



Filastrocche per tutto l'anno
Nursery Rhymes for a whole Year

Just less than one hundred nursery rhymes on different topics make this book one of the best and most precious anthologies of Rodari's world. From school to big cities, from camping grounds to grandfather's pearls of wisdom, from the cats of Rome to the trades of today and yesterday, this writer so dear to children ranges their world with his customary irony and wisdom.

pages 152,
age 6+



Novelle fatte a macchina
Typewritten Stories

A masterpiece by the great Gianni Rodari, who winds his way through the vices and virtues of our current way of living. Weird characters and funny unexpected situations.

pages 208,
age 11+

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, French, Greek, Japanese, Bulgarian, Chinese Simple, German.



Piccoli vagabondi
Young Tramps

This is the story of three children who, immediately after the War, were forced to abandon their village and undertake a long journey through Italy. From Roma to the Adriatic coast, from Ferrara to Milano, they involve the reader in a profound human and social experience. Adventures with which Rodari once again shows his extraordinary attention for the feelings of ordinary people, their sufferings and their hopes.

pages 120,
age 9+

Rights sold: Chinese Simple.



Filastrocche lunghe e corte
Long and Short Nursery Rhymes

This anthology contains some of the best nursery rhymes by Gianni Rodari, great educator with endless imagination, who spoke to the world of childhood like a child, understanding and stimulating the public he loved best: children. His flights of fantasy are still amusing and fascinating.

pages 88,
age 6+



Le favolette di Alice
Alice's Little Stories

Thanks to her very small size, Alice can explore things and hidden places. Everyone in her family knows how fond she is of adventures and is not surprised at her sudden disappearances and prodigious reappearances.

pages 64,
age 7+

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Polish, Greek, German, Russian, Ukrainian, Chinese Simple.



Gip nel televisore
Gip in the TV and other stories in orbit

Although he has a great passion for television, Gip never would have thought that he could fly over the room and fall right into the magical machine, creating all kinds of problems in the net...but this is what happens in a quiet apartment in Milan. And that's not all! The story has a funny conclusion that will make us want to read all the other "stories in orbit"!

pages 128,
age 8+

Rights sold: French, Greek, Korean, Castilian, Catalan, Albanian, Lithuanian, Turkish, Chinese Simple, Chinese Complex, Russian, Hungarian.



Gli affari del signor Gatto
Mr Cat's Business

A collection of stories and rhymes about cats. The main story is about Mr. Cat who wants to become rich. After many ideas he decides to set up in business with the tin's mouse beef production. No easy job to convince mice to go into business with the cat!

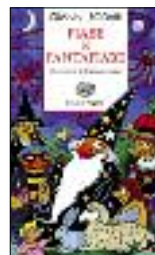
pages 72,
age 8+



Agente X.99:
storie e versi dallo spazio
Agent X.99:
Stories from Outer Space

Agent x.99 is just looking for friends, which is why he sets out on a space journey. The planets he visits and the different people he meets are described with humour and wit.

pages 88,
age 9+



Fiabe e Fantafiabe
Tales and Fantatales

Extraordinary words, smart and clumsy thieves, an unexpected journey into the future on a colourful merry-go-round, fantasy mixed with reality, magic solutions and common sense. These amusing and humorous stories underline the importance of solidarity and the need for a critical reflection on the world we live in. A message of cheerfulness and hope.

pages 128,
age 9+



Versi e storie di parole
Word Stories and Rhymes

Rodari is fascinated by language tricks, grammar rules and writing mistakes. This book is a sort of amusing grammar, where ironic stories tell us the origin of some words and how they changed through history to come to the present meaning.

pages 72,
age 7+

Rights sold: Castilian, Galician, Valencian, French, Polish, Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Castilian, Portuguese (Brazil only), Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Castilian, Greek, Catalan, Turkish, Chinese Simple, German.



Il secondo libro delle filastrocche
The Second Book of Nonsense Rhymes

These rhymes express children's freedom and smile at grammar mistakes. They are rhymes that make us fly with fantasy in wonderful worlds. They are divided in four groups of rhymes: from tongue twisters to rhymes centered on the unexpected vitality of everyday things.

pages 128,
age 7+



I viaggi di Giovannino Perdigiorno
Giovannino Perdigiorno's Travels

Giovannino is a great explorer, he is curious and loves great adventures. The worlds he sees however don't satisfy him entirely, so he leaves, dreaming of a land where everything is perfect, beautiful and flawless.

pages 96,
age 6+



Altre storie
Other Stories

A Fairy on a sightseeing tour, the Martian point of view seeing the human being for the first time... Again dozens of eclectic characters come out from Rodari's magic top hat.

pages 96,
age 7+



Zoo di storie e versi
A Zoo of Stories and Verses

Many of the stories written by Gianni Rodari talk about animals. This is an ideal zoo which is not a prison, but a place of happiness, where the reader can find the pleasure of the tale and the freedom of fantasy.

pages 104,
age 8+

Rights sold: Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Chinese Simple, Russian.

Rights sold: Albanian, Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Chinese Simple.



La gondola fantasma
The Ghost Gondola

Set in Venice, this amusing story is based on the magic of Italian carnival masks. There is the son of a caliph who is kidnapped, many famous masks like Pulcinella and Arlecchino and a mysterious 'gondola' (the typical Venetian boat). Misunderstandings, people mistaken for other people, and a lot more make this book irresistibly funny.

pages 112,
age 9+



Storie di Marco e Mirko
Marco and Mirko Stories

Stories about the twins Marco e Mirko who help adults solve mysteries thanks to their spirit of enterprise and love for adventure. Everything, of course, is surrounded by the fantastic world that only Rodari is able to conjure up.

pages 112,
age 9+



Marionette in libertà
Freewheeling Puppets

A collection of three stories where three puppets, tired of hanging from a thread, decide to leave the theater for freedom. They will of course meet hordes of strange people and end up in funny situations, as always in the fantastic world of Gianni Rodari.

pages 128,
age 9+



Fra i banchi
In among the Desks

For Gianni Rodari the school is a place where learning and amusement should coexist in harmony. This is the ideal anthology of short stories he would have been happy to suggest as school readings. All of them are simple, amusing and capable to make children think through a smile. This is the real cleverness of all Rodari's writings.

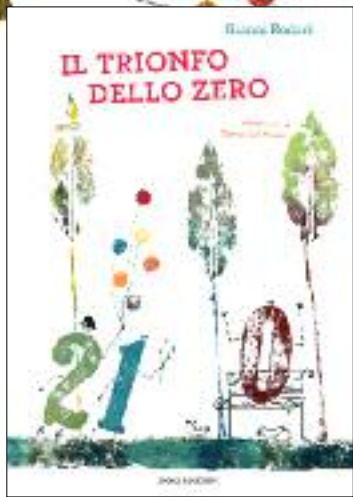
pages 208,
age 7+

Rights sold: Castilian, Galician, Greek, Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Polish, Turkish, Japanese, Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Chinese Simple.

Rights sold: Chinese Simple.



NEW TITLE!

Il trionfo dello Zero *The Triumph of the Zero*

illustrated by Elena Del Vento, 32 pages, age 4+

This picture book, inspired by a poem by Gianni Rodari, represents yet another invitation from the author to look at things in a different way. It tells the poetic story of a Zero that alone is worthless, but when put next to a One can become a no less than a Ten!

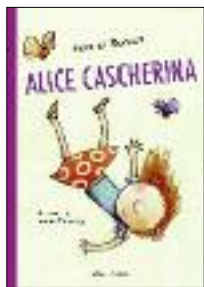


I colori dei mestieri *The Colours of Trades*

illustrated by Alessandro Sanna, 64 pages, age 5+

Rodari describes – together with the unmistakable, poetical drawing by Alessandro Sanna – the real appearance of those who work, who, every day, do their part in making things work, so that everyone can enjoy a common good, since even the humblest of trades has its own dignity.

NEW TITLE!



Alice Cascherina - *Tumbling Alice*

illustrated by Elena Temporin, 32 pages, age 5+

The first of the eight Alice stories from *Telephone Tales*. In her eagerness to go poking about everywhere, little Tumbling Alice tumbles over in the most unthinkable places. She tumbles into the alarm clock, into the bottle and into the back of drawers. She even tumbles into her daddy's jacket pocket. Luckily she always manages to escape!



Giacomo di cristallo - *Christal James*

illustrated by Vitali Konstaninov, 32 pages, age 5+

The unforgettable story of the see-through boy, whose thoughts and inner-most emotions are even on view for everyone to see. A terrible tyrant imprisons him because of his transparency. But "the truth is more powerful than any other thing, it is brighter than daylight, and more dreadful than a hurricane".

Illustrated by Vitali Konstaninov, selected at the *Illustrators Exhibition* at the Bologna Children's Bookfair in 2010.

Rights sold: Castilian.



La strada che non andava in nessun posto *The Road that Went Nowhere*

illustrated by Fulvio Testa, 32 pages, age 5+

There were three paths leading out of the village, the one to the seaside, the one to the city and the one that led to nowhere. In spite of all the bans, one day Martin Hardhead decided to follow that path right to the end, and it led to a fabulous castle. Here he was welcomed by a marvellous lady who congratulated him for not believing the fib about the path leading nowhere, and she gave him boundless treasures to take back to the village. That very same evening, many of the villagers rushed along the same path, but at the end of it all they found was a sea of thorns, because "some treasures only exist for those who beat a new road first."

Rights sold: Castilian, French.



Storie e filastrocche di Natale - *Christmas Tales*

illustrated by Alistar, 80 pages, age 5+

A genuine wizard of words, Gianni Rodari could turn any occasion into poetry. And so readers young and old will find this anthology dedicated to the Christmas festivities marked by the extraordinary signature imagination of "Wizard Gianni": greetings for everyone, red Indians in the nativity scene, sparrows nesting on the Christmas tree, surprisingly jaunty snowmen and trains bringing us wagon loads of toys at New Year's Eve.

Rights sold: Greek.



Storia universale - *Universal History*

illustrated by Bombo!, 32 pages, age 5+

Telling the history of the world and man's role on Earth in less than one hundred and fifty words. With simplicity, conveying emotions and, above all, using language suitable for children.

Sounds like a mission impossible? Not for Gianni Rodari, who managed it with this text, the closing text in *Tales on the Phone*. Here, as in all Gianni Rodari's works, there is wit and, above all, that "universal" and impartial point of view that makes his message up-to-date and applicable to all mankind.



Tonino l'invisibile - *Tonino the Invisible*

illustrated by Alessandro Sanna, 32 pages, age 5+

One of Gianni Rodari's most famous stories. Alessandro Sanna has managed an extraordinary feat – creating the illustrations of an invisible character! Tonino satisfies his greatest wish and becomes invisible. But now that nobody can see him, how can he take part in the laughter of his friends or his mother's hugs? Being alone is terrible!

Rights sold: Castilian (Spain and South America), Catalan, French, Korean, Portuguese (Brazil only), Turkish, Arabic.



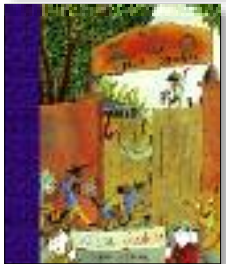
La filastrocca di Pinocchio - *The Story of Pinocchio*

illustrated by Febe Sillani, 40 pages, age 4+

Published for the first time in the fifties and constructed through commented drawings and rhyming couplets, this nursery rhyme is a homage by Rodari to one of the characters best loved by children all over the world. True to the novel but capable of winning over modern children, accustomed to picture stories, for decades it has always won its bet: bringing small readers to love Collodi's masterpiece.

A small treasure for people who love Pinocchio. Brought up-to-date and enriched by Febe Sillani's new illustrations.

Rights sold: French, Castilian, Catalan.



Lo zoo delle storie - *The Zoo of Stories*

illustrated by Fulvio Testa, 48 pages, age 5+

With these stories Rodari has fun constructing a chain of tales and, of course, the final story is skilfully linked to the first one. And each story stands alone, independent from the others, in a simple yet ingenious narrative construction.

The protagonists are almost all animals at a zoo where freedom and imagination are the rule, the same freedom and imagination with which only children see the world. A masterly interpretation by Fulvio Testa, whose drawings show the happy spaces of this zoo made up of stories, animals and imagination.

Rights sold: Korean, Russian, Portuguese (Brazil only), Albanian.



I viaggi di Giovannino Perdigiorno *Giovannino Perdigiorno's Travels*

illustrated by Valeria Petrone, 40 pages, age 5+

Giovannino Perdigiorno is a child traveller who, on board the weirdest vehicles, ends up in some really outlandish countries: in one he finds men made of butter, in another the men are see-through and so on. Valeria Petrone interprets Gianni Rodari's famous character with a liberating freshness, offering readers a whiff of the fragrance of utopia.

Rights sold: Korean, Castilian.



Animali senza zoo - *Animals not in the Zoo*

illustrated by Anna Laura Cantone, 48 pages, age 6+

Anna Laura Cantone does a magnificent job illustrating short stories about animals by Gianni Rodari. Rodari takes up the ancient tradition of the fable, at times placing the animal-protagonists in classical situations, at times endowing them with virtues and vices of the modern world. With her unmistakable flair, Anna Laura Cantone creates an irresistible saraband of humour.

Rights sold: French, Castilian, Catalan, Greek, Rumanian, Lithuanian, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Hebrew, Bulgarian, Turkish.



Alice nelle figure - *Alice in the Pictures*

illustrated by Anna Laura Cantone, 32 pages, age 5+

Alice is a funny character created by Gianni Rodari, and she always falls into things: alarm clocks, pockets, soap bubbles... How does she do that? And how is it possible to pull her out? It's always a tricky problem. This time she falls into an illustrated fairytale book: it's going to be a lot of fun!

Rights sold: Korean, Castilian, Catalan, Turkish, Danish, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Hebrew.



La passeggiata di un distratto - *The Walk of an Absent-Minded*

illustrated by Alistar, 32 pages, age 5+

In one of the best-known *Tales on the Phone*, Gianni Rodari has fun portraying a typical characteristic of childhood: absentmindedness.

Little Giovanni is an absent-minded: he goes out for a walk and he loses bits of his body, because he is busy following his train of thought. It is typical of children, of all children, who think only about themselves, who live only in the present, in the moment that disappears immediately to make way for another moment, another idea, another adventure. But for every absent-minded child there is a mummy who loves him just the way he is and is always ready to put back the pieces he has lost along the way.

Rights sold: French, Castilian.



Che cosa ci vuole - *What do you need?*

illustrated by Silvia Bonanni, 32 pages, age 4+

A priceless illustrated book, where Gianni Rodari's very simple text is greatly enhanced by the splendid images in collage. The text, which is as elegantly dry as a geometrical demonstration, explains how there cannot be tables without wood, and therefore, by going back one step at a time, "to make a table you need a flower." There is sometimes a short step between the elegance of geometry to the fragrance of poetry.

Rights sold: French, Hebrew, Greek, Castilian, Galician, Korean, Portuguese (excluding Brasil).

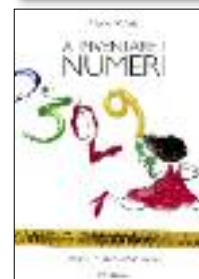


A sbagliare le storie - *When Stories are mistold*

illustrated by Alessandro Sanna, 40 pages, age 5+

Just take this superb large-sized edition of *A sbagliare le storie* in which the tale of Little Red Riding Hood is warped, twisted and twirled around by a grandfather who seems quite unable to tell it right. Provided of course that he wants to... Colours, quotations and an original graphic interpretation of Rodari's poetical theory of error humorously blend in the lush collages which capture the energy and wit of each and every turn of the story in a stunning crescendo leading up to the surprise ending.

Rights sold: Korean, Castilian, Galician, French, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Hebrew.

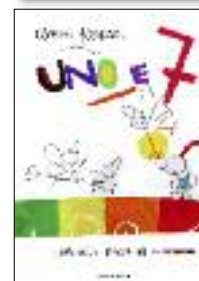


A inventare i numeri - *Making up Numbers*

illustrated by Alessandro Sanna, 32 pages, age 4+

A very fast exchange of quips on the telephone, a simple but fun game: making up numbers which don't exist. Can you illustrate a fable on the phone all made up of puns? You most certainly can: Alessandro Sanna does it by using the numbers as colourful graphic signs, and transforms the figures into faces, cats, blackbirds, people..... it's a must!

Rights sold: Castilian, Galician, French, Portuguese (Brazil).



Uno e Sette - *One and Seven*

illustrated by Vittoria Facchini, 32 pages, age 5+

This is the story of a child who really is 7 children. Each child lives in a different part of the world with different fathers...

Gianni Rodari was the first writer to tell children about such an important issue as peace. His message is as crisp and modern as ever and the bright illustrations by Vittoria Facchini help making it even livelier.

Rights sold: Castilian, French, Greek, Portuguese (Brazil only).



Il pittore - *The Painter*

illustrated by Valeria Petrone, 40 pages, age 4+

The main character in this nursery rhyme is a painter who is so poor he pulls his hair out to make his brushes. But what colours can he use, seeing as he cannot buy any paints? He goes to ask to borrow some from the master of each colour, but absolutely no one is willing to give him any. The painter is a white silhouette with few black lines, the background is a colourless light blue and the colours' masters are brightly coloured clouds. What nursery rhyme is better suited to being illustrated?

Rights sold: Korean, Castilian, Catalan, Basque, Portuguese (Brazil only).



L'omino della pioggia - *The Little Rain Man*

illustrated by Nicoletta Costa, 32 pages, age 4+

Since clouds do not always pour rain, they must have taps. And obviously there must be somebody who turns these taps on and off. His name, of course, is "the little rain man", and his job often gets very tiring...

A poetic and funny story.

Rights sold: Korean, Castilian, Greek, Portuguese (Brazil only), Turkish.



Le favole a rovescio - *Tales told Backwards*

illustrated by Nicoletta Costa, 32 pages, age 5+

In brief verses, some of the most famous traditional fairy tales are told in an absurd, often hilarious way.

Rodari's wit and humour create a fantastic atmosphere, enriched by the upside down character of these tales told backwards, and at the end you're invited to use your own imagination: 'Whatever happened next, it's up to you to figure it out.'

Rights sold: Korean.



La guerra delle campane - *The War of the Bells*

illustrated by Pef, 32 pages, age 5+

Two countries are fighting a long lasting war. It's us against them. Our General plans to build the ultimate gun with the bells taken from the churches. The enemy's General has the same idea. Both Generals think their weapons shall bring war to an end, but how can churches' bells put an end to war?

Rights sold: French, Chinese complex, Greek, Portuguese (Brazil only), Japanese.



Il re Mida - *King Midas*

illustrated by Francesco Altan, 32 pages, age 6+

One of the most famous "Tales on the Phone" is the one about the most famous King in Greek Mythology, who was doomed by a spell to turn everything he touched into gold. But Gianni Rodari's creativity enhances the classical ending with an irreverent surprise....



I libri della fantasia *The Books of Imagination*

864 pages, age 6+
illustrated by Bruno Munari
anthology of 6 books
Rights sold: Castilian.

Le storie della fantasia *The Stories of Imagination*

704 pages, age 6+
anthology of 5 books

F I C T I O N / A N T H O L O G Y



Grammatica della fantasia

The Grammar of Imagination

192 pages

This famous book by Gianni Rodari focuses on how our imagination works in order to take us beyond the wall of a dull scholastic routine and into the fascinating world of creativity. According to Rodari, a word is similar to a stone thrown into a pond: while the latter produces a series of rapidly changing concentric ripples which gently stir the water-lilies as well as a child's paper-boat, the former triggers incredibly intricate chain-reactions involving sounds and images, dreams, memories and - endlessly - other words and analogies...

Rights sold: English (US), French, German, Japanese, Chinese Simple, Castilian (Spain, Mexico, Colombia and Latin America), Catalan, Galician, Greek, Portuguese (Portugal and Brazil), Latvian, Turkish, Rumanian, Russian, Polish.



Una storia, tante storie. Guida all'opera di Gianni Rodari

A Story, many Stories. A guide to the work of Gianni Rodari

By Pino Boero, 288 pages

Thirty years after Gianni Rodari's death (1920-1980), his name still accompanies young readers, and is still present in schools, libraries and in bookshops with books that have sold hundreds of thousands of copies and have contributed to making the history of the new children's literature in Italy and worldwide. This volume by Pino Boero describes the problems of the writer's complex intellectual career, examines the different forms (nursery rhymes, novels, fairytales and short stories, theatre and essays) making up his vast works and offers us a complete tool for reading and interpreting the "fabulous Gianni".

E S S A Y S



Storie di re Mida *King Mida's Stories*

80 pages, age 7+

Gli esami di Arlecchino *Harlequin's Exams*

186 pages, age 7+

In the late '70 Rodari has been involved in a passionate project on theatre for children, in which he experimented new techniques, starting from children' experiences, inventions and words, but involving also teachers, parents and real actors. From this experience he collected many texts, which are made not only with words, and which celebrate a real theatre made not just for children but above all by them.

Gianni Rodari is one of the twentieth century's greatest authors for children.

Influenced by French surrealism and linguistics, Rodari stressed the importance of conceiving poetry as a playful activity and a means to recover the rhythm and sound of the oral tradition of nursery rhymes, explore the potential of the language and exploit the combinatory and releasing power of words. This is what children's poetry is today, and today at school children play at 'making poetry'.

At a time when schooling was all about factual knowledge, Rodari wrote *La grammatica della fantasia* (The Grammar of Imagination), a book on the art of making up and writing stories. Rodari was a forerunner of writing techniques such as that of the 'fantastic binomial', of the 'what happened after' and the 'what happened if...', which now play a key role in creative writing and are still employed by teachers and authors of children's books.

The relevance of Rodari's works today lies in his poetics of imagination, in his ironic approach to reality and to social and civic issues such as war and peace, emigration, injustice, inequality and liberty.

Thirty years since his death, Rodari's writing appears to be as powerful and innovative as ever. For his works and translations (over 50 languages) he received many awards and honours, included the Andersen Prize in 1970, one of the world's most prestigious prizes for children's literature.

He died in Rome in 1980.

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