Gianni Rodari

Edizioni EL
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bologna 2013
New Titles and Back List
La principessa Allegra - Princess Allegra
illustrated by Elena Temporin, 32 pages, age 5+
Allegra is a princess who always sees the bright side of life. She even keeps smiling when her parents pass away and she is made queen, a job that turns out to be exceedingly dull and dreary! While her people are gloomy, the court is plotting as usual and eventually Allegra is deposed and the kingdom plunges into rack and ruin. When her faithful subjects return her crown, it is time for Allegra to marry. But she agrees to wed only the man who can ask for her hand without making her laugh. Everyone fails, except for one poor peasant who looks at her from a distance without laughing. He has been to war so he knows the meaning of pain and he is ready to share that knowledge with Allegra in a new life based on compassion, serenity and awareness.

Il cielo è di tutti - The Sky Belongs to Everyone
illustrated by Nicoletta Costa, 32 pages, age 4+
In this wonderful book, Nicoletta Costa, one of Italy’s best-loved illustrators, brings all her skill and bright, joyful, easy-to-read style to a splendid nursery rhyme from Gianni Rodari’s “Book of Errors”. In his customary, concise and simple style, Rodari asks a question that humanity has still not found an answer to: “Why is there only one sky when the earth is broken into lots of pieces?”

L’omino dei sogni - The Little Man of Dreams
illustrated by Anna Laura Cantone, 32 pages, age 5+
For Gianni Rodari, the little man of dreams is a little prompter: while we sleep he whispers a few words to our ears, and we are immediately transported to fantastic worlds. In this lively story, images from different dreams follow one after the other, unexpectedly slipping into each other, following the words whispered by the little man. Who is this little character whose words bring us to fantastic worlds where anything is possible? The rhyme does not say that, but in some way it seems to be… Rodari himself!

Il trionfo dello zero - The Triumph of the Zero
illustrated by Elena Del Vento, 32 pages, age 5+
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, 72 pages, age 6+
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.

Il filobus numero 75 - The Bus number 75
illustrated by Blanca Gómez, 32 pages, age 5+
Bus number 75 runs every day on its usual route through Rome, but one morning, suddenly, takes its passengers out of the city to the edge of a forest. Passengers are supposed to go to work, so they start protesting against the driver. Slowly, however, the passengers get off and enjoy the beauty of the wood. Now that all are having fun, the bus is ready to leave and magically not even a minute has passed: every passenger cab be at work on time! It is the first day of spring, everything is possible!

Alice Cascherina - Tumbling Alice
illustrated by Elena Temporin, 32 pages, age 4+
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 - Chirstal Jannes
illustrated by Vitali Konstantinov, 32 pages, age 5+
The unforgettable story of the see-through boy, whose thoughts and innermost 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 Konstantinov, selected at the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children’s Bookfair in 2010.

La strada che non andava in nessun posto - The Road that Went Nowhere
illustrated by Fulvio Testa, 32 pages, age 6+
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 thefib 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, Russian.

A sbagliare le storie
illustrated by Alessandro Sanna, 40 pages, age 5+
A very fast exchange of quips on the telephone, a simple but fun game: making up numbers up to the surprise ending.

Rights sold: Castilian, Portuguese (Brazil only), Russian.

Harlequin’s Exams
Edizioni EL
Storie e filastrocche di Natale - *Christmas Tales*
Illustrated by Alistar, 88 pages, age 6+
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, surprisinglyouncy snowmen and trains bringing us wagon loads of toys at New Year’s Eve.

**Rights sold:** Greek, Russian.

Storia universale - *Universal History*
Illustrated by Bombol, 32 pages, age 4+
Telling the story of the world and man’s role on Earth in less than one hundred and fifty verses, 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.

**Rights sold:** Russian.

Tonino l’invisibile - *Tonino the Invisible*
Illustrated by Alessandro Sanna, 40 pages, age 7+
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, Russian, Chinese Simple.

La filastrocca di Pinocchio - *The Story of Pinocchio*
Illustrated by Febe Sillani, 40 pages, age 6+
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 new illustrations.

**Rights sold:** French, Castilian, Catalan.

Lo zoo delle storie - *The Zoo of Stories*
Illustrated by Fulvio Testa, 48 pages, age 7+
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 Giovanni Perdiglorno - *Giovanni Perdiglorno’s Travels*
Illustrated by Valeria Petrone, 40 pages, age 5+
Giovanni Perdiglorno is a child traveller who, on board the weirdest vehicles, ends up in some really outlierish 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:** Castilian, Russian.

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:** Castilian, Catalan, Greek, Rumanian, 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, 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:** Russian.

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, Castilian, Galician, Korean, Portuguese (excluding Brasil), Greek.

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 twisted 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, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Greek.

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, Portuguese (Brazil), Russian.
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, Portuguese (Brazil only), Greek.

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), Albanian.

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: Castilian, Greek, Portuguese (Brazil only), Turkish.

Le favole a rovescio - Tales told Backwards
illustrated by Nicoletta Costa, 32 pages, age 4+

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: Korean, Chinese complex, 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....

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.
**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 (Portugal and Brazil), Greek, Korean, Bulgarian, French, Chinese Simple, Hebrew, Bosnian, Polish, Turkish, Czech, Russian, Estonian.

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**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 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.

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

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**La torta in cielo - A Pie in the Sky**

Ill. 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 cake, that they will eat with lots of friends.

**Rights sold:** English (worldwide), Castilian, Catalan, French, Chinese Simple, Turkish, Japanese.

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**Il pipistrello della fantasia - The Christmas Tree Planet**

Ill. by Bruno Munari.

Marco lands on a planet where every day is Christmas Day and where trees are decorated with sweets and festoons. Here whatever you need is free, and technology serves men. Back from his fantastic 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.

**Rights sold:** French, Castilian, Catalan, Albanian, Korean, Croatian, Russian, Albanian, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Chinese Complex, Chinese Simple, Japanese, Turkish.

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**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-thongs 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.

**Rights sold:** French, Castilian, Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian, Chinese Complex, Chinese Simple, Japanese, Turkish.

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

Ill. 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 witiness. 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.

**Rights sold:** Russian.

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

This is the best-known of Gianni Rodari’s “Rhymes 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.

**Rights sold:** Castilian, French, Chinese Simple, Chinese Complex, Portuguese (Brazil only), Japanese, Greek, Turkish.
Hungarian, Japanese, Georgian, Vietnamese, Chinese age 11+

Old Baron Lamberto is very lie. It will not take him long to Cipollino

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

Every night, at nine o'clock, wherever he is, Mr. Bianchi, an accountant in a Castilian, Ukrainian, Chinese Complex, Chinese Simple, age 9+

invasion and the facts prove...solution and are ready to call

age 6+

This is the story of three children...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.

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Basque, Galician, Valencian, 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.

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

Filastrocche 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 adventure, and is not surprised at her sudden disappearances and prodigious reappearances.

Rights sold: Castilian, Catalan, Greek, German, Russian, Ukrainian, 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

La favolette di Alice Alice's Little Stories

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

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.

Rights sold: Castilian, Greek, Catalan, Turkish, Chinese Simple, German.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<td>Gianni Rodari</td>
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<td>72, 96</td>
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<td>I viaggi di Giovannino Perdigio</td>
<td>Giovannino Perdigio</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>128, 176</td>
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<td>Marco and Mirko Stories</td>
<td>Gianni Rodari</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Marionette in libertà</td>
<td>Gianni Rodari</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>8, 9</td>
<td>Albanian, Chinese Simple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marionette in libertà</td>
<td>Gianni Rodari</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>128, 168</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
<td>Chinese Simple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fra i banchi</td>
<td>Gianni Rodari</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>104, 208</td>
<td>8, 7</td>
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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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