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ON THE TRACKS OF THE HYPERMODERN IN THE RECENT ITALIAN CHILDREN'S FICTION

By Andrea Dessardo, Università Europea di Roma

The paper aims to recognize some common characters in the Italian children's literature of the last twenty years, enclosed between the terroristic attacks in New York and Washington on September 11th 2001 and the burst of the war in Ukraine in 2022, in the frame of the "hypermodern" categorization. The thesis – to be confirmed – is that we are going through a transition age, already substantially different, for values and trends, from the 80s and 90s, and that this transition has repercussions also in educational area, thus the category of post-modern could be considered passed over.

Keywords: hypermodern, education, storytelling, children's literature

READING ALOUD. EDUCATIONAL INDICATIONS AND EFFECTS IN A LIFELONG LEARNING PERSPECTIVE

By Marco Bartolucci, University of Parma, Andrea Giacomantonio, University Pegaso, Giulia Toti, University of Perugia

In this paper we present reading aloud practice, understood as a social practice, centered on narrative texts, in which participants interact with each other in a given place. Family practice of reading aloud in early childhood appears to have intense and lasting cognitive, social and emotional effects on the child. The variability of those practices in the family context probably generate differences that help explain the variability in school readiness. In this regard, schools could exert an equalizing action. Particularly this appears to be effective if reading aloud is practiced consistently, with work sessions that have a certain duration, with principle of bibliovariety and with appropriate modalities of conduct. The effects that are achieved can be applied to different ages. In childhood, these effects are likely to increase both mastery of the mother tongue (phonological awareness, breadth of vocabulary, comprehension skills, motivation for independent reading) and creativity, cognitive, emotional and relational skills. In old age, reading aloud promotes the maintenance of a good cognitive functioning.

Keywords: reading aloud, lifelong learning, school activity.

METAMORPHOSIS BY ITALO CALVINO, WRITING BETWEEN MEN AND LANDSCAPES

By Elisabetta Mamberti, primary school teacher

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than you can dream of in your philosophy".

Famous and evocative lines from Hamlet and yet they could be the words of Italo Calvino: because it is precisely in that space, between heaven and earth, in that passing through things that Calvino realizes his narrative choice. In the search for what is apparently only a geographical indicator, he draws an incisive and prophetic portrait of contemporary man: the doubts of humanity, the most arcane and the most modern. And so his cities (visible and invisible) are the great co-protagonists that hide behind the human figures: the city itself moves and feeds just like an organism, it has its own memory, and infinite possibilities of changeability.

Among Calvino's numerous editorial successes we meet Marcovaldo or the seasons in the city, the funny worker, slender and elongated also in the unforgettable illustrations by Sergio Tofano: here is Marcovaldo with his zig-zag gait (as if he were a butterfly), is an example unique of how the Calvinian metamorphosis is outlined in all its colorful lightness. Marcovaldo walking through the streets of the city, and the same way of walking belongs to and is reflected in Calvino's writing and narration. In the street, in the paths, in passing through things, Calvino identifies himself and his writing: his choice to cross the spaces gives him the opportunity to observe and tell the story of who in this world is hidden in the margins, and demands of feeling unfit.

Keywords: Calvino, *Marcovaldo*, metamorphosis, alienation.

ITALO CALVINO: METAPHORS OF "DIVERSITY" IN ITALIAN POPULAR FAIRY TALES

by Silvia Pacelli, University of Roma Tre

With the publication of the volume *Italian fairy tales* (1956), Italo Calvino completed a long work of collecting fairy tales from the Italian popular tradition. Within the anthology, there are many representations of different characters whose physical or sensory characteristics lead them to be excluded, mocked or regarded with suspicion by others. These characteristics have often been used in the fairy tale tradition both as an engine of the narrative action itself and as narrative metaphors to mean something else and are handed down in the popular collective imagination taking root in it and perpetrating over time. The contribution aims to examine these representations in Calvino's collection of fairy tales from the Italian popular tradition by placing them in relation to the other most important Italian popular and copyright collections that certainly influenced Calvino's work, such as Giuseppe Pitrè (1875), Luigi Capuana (1882) and Emma Perodi (1909). By comparing the images of diversity contained in them, recurring topoi emerge, albeit with small differences, common in the Italian popular tradition, but also peculiarities that testify to the selection work carried out by Calvino on this vast basin and its authorial imprint: the promotion of the critical spirit and independence of judgement, diversity as a metaphor for fighting single thought, the theme of the double and of human alienation which returns in several of the author's works and is central to the work *Il visconte dimezzato* (1952).

Keywords: Calvino, *Italian Folktales*, inclusion, diversity.

MARCOVALDO IN PRIMARY SCHOOL? HERE ARE THE REASONS WHY YOU DON'T READ IT ANYMORE... AND HERE'S WHY I LOVED IT AS A CHILD

By Eva Serena Pavan, writer of children's books

I discovered *Marcovaldo* in the fourth grade. It was the 1980s and this text was present in the subsidiaries - a reading proposal that we consider difficult today. It was probably difficult even for the children of that time... but I enjoyed it like bitter chocolate in vanilla. The tone, the language, the plots undermined all the literary canons that I had already internalized at the age of 9. In this article I will explore the "critical issues" of this text, asking myself whether it is actually too complex, or rather divergent from the readings proposed today, which risk excessive simplification to explain reality.

I will focus on the character of Marcovaldo, an inadequate parent, a dreamy and irresponsible adult who behaves like a child, and as such is constantly scolded: he is an adult/child "leveling" that

amuses, but at the same time questions a cornerstone of the stories for childhood.

I will then analyze his problematic relationship with the law, the suspended endings, the bittersweet tone: elements that prevent us from drawing a univocal moral from these stories.

Finally, the context: hyperrealism (poverty, hunger) in a dialectical relationship with the surreal.

In Marcovaldo the threshold between reality and imagination continues to fluctuate, just as it happens in the world of children: adapting to reality and continuing to dream... the complication of growing up is all here.

Keywords: Calvino, *Marcovaldo*, critical issues, surrealism.

SIX MEMOS FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM. DISTANCE LEARNING (OF TIME AND PLACE)

By Italo Spada, University "Seraphicum", Rome

Almost 40 years have passed since Calvino, invited by the Harvard University to hold a series of conferences on forms of poetic communication, decided to deal with «some literary values to be preserved in the next millennium».

The millennium has already come a long way and 23 years are enough to induce us to draw up an initial assessment. Was he right or wrong? Was it forward-looking or catastrophic?

Examining the values chosen by the author (Lightness, Speed, Accuracy, Visibility, Multiplicity) means not only paying homage to a prolific Italian writer on the centenary of his birth, but also inviting us to see the eternal topicality of literature and its function in the formation of the individual. «Words are stones» wrote Carlo Levi, but not all stones have the same value and the same functionality. The milestones, for example (and respecting the etymology), have the task of signaling us the kilometers that have been traveled or that remain to be traveled to reach the destination.

Keywords: Calvino, *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*, literary qualities.