



Poets' Corner

Editor: Chris Lima
ELT Online Reading Group

Poems by
Francisco Langua
&
Maria do Ceu Costa

2014

Foreword

The ELT Online Reading Group is an electronic version of a face-to-face reading group. The Group was created in 2007 to encourage ELT professionals and TESOL students to read literature in English, as well as promote professional development and intercultural competence through the discussion of works literature.

Over the past few years the popularity of Reading Groups has dramatically increased in the UK and around the world, becoming places to develop friendships, cultivate dialogue and the sharing of ideas prompted by the reading of literature.

The ELT Reading Group was created having in mind those English language professionals who work in special conditions, especially teachers who have little access to libraries and books in English, limited internet access and/or little time to search the Web for reading material. We also had in mind those teachers who work in remote areas or conflict zones where it is almost impossible to guarantee safety and the right to public gatherings and/or who count on little support to start a Reading Group in their workplaces or communities.

In 2014, we invited two of our most dedicated members to contribute with pieces of their own writing to a section of the Group website we call The Poet's Corner. Francisco Langua and Maria do Ceu Pires are English language teachers and teacher trainers who have been active members of this community since its beginnings and who kindly agreed to serve as Poets in Residence. This publication is the result of their imagination and writing skills and it would have never been possible without the generosity of the authors of these texts who agreed to contribute to this collection without any financial reward.

We hope you enjoy reading their poems.

Dr Chris Lima
Leicester, December 2014

The Poets



Francisco Langa (Tanguene)

Tanguene , 34, was born in Maputo, Mozambique. He is studying Auditing and Accounting at ISCAM College.

He is passionate about creative reading and writing. He is the co-founder and facilitator of the Reader's Corner reading group, co-facilitator of the Book Club reading group, a former project for students and members of the British Council Resource Centre in Maputo. He is also the facilitator of radio reading sessions at Maputo Corridor Radio and member of the ELT Online Reading Group.

He writes poems and stories in English and has won a poetry contest on the ELT Online Reading Group website with the poem "At the Bus Stops" and his poems were published in poetry collections and online e-zines. His poem (At the Bus Stops) was published in the grade 10 English schoolbook 2011, edited by the plural editors in Mozambique.



Maria do Ceu Costa

Maria do Céu Pires Costa is based in Évora, Portugal, where she was born. She holds a degree in Germanic Philology from the Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon.

She has been an EFL teacher for more than thirty years, being retired now. But she keeps being very actively engaged in educational and cultural matters, collaborating with some prestigious online platforms. She is a member of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language -- IATEFL, and a regular collaborator with the Portuguese Association of Teachers of English—APPI.

Maria do Céu Pires Costa writes poetry and has co-authored her first poem collection, *A Letter to the President of the U.S.* , with Rachid Acim in March 2011.

The Poems

At the bus stops

Smile

My childhood

The anchored boat

The unannounced rain

So is it

The candlelight

The dance of seasons

Waiting for the train

Painted landscape



At the Bus Stops

Francisco Langa

We better bring our chairs,
You'll bring our stools!

Women bring your mukhume ni vemba
And sisters come with capulanas
Mother bring your mat
You'll need it
To stretch it down
To sit on with your children!

For centuries it takes
While we're waiting
Waiting,
Waiting
For a chapa
To come!



Smile

Maria do Ceu Costa

It comes as light
It beholds us tight
It helps us revive
And keeps us alive.

It easily softens pain
It never comes in vain
It is sheer delight
Which spans day and night.

It stems in one's heart
It floods every part
It is a blessed ray
We cherish it and let it stay...

My Childhood

Francisco Langa

I remember
when in moonlight nights

when one ran in front
another was running behind
trying to step on each other's shadows,

I'm stepping on your shadow!
I'm stepping on your shadow!
We giggled
we crazily laughed,
running towards nowhere





The Anchored Boat

Maria do Ceu Costa

Waves kissing the pebbled shore
Gazed at me and asked:
"Shall we see your boat no more?!"
Contemplating the blue sky
I responded to them with a sigh
God will send it again,
Hopefully,
And you and I will embrace it
Lavishly"

The Unannounced Rain

Francisco Langa



While sitting in the open,
The night darkening close,
Drop, drop, drop
It started dropping.
And, suddenly
The unannounced rain!

The little boy screaming,
The mother running,
In trying to save him from
The unannounced rain drops!

The little one screaming loud now,
For the little ones fear rain,
We don't know where it comes from
Although, some little ones on TV
scream
Fearing something else,
They say it's Sudan or Palestine, we
don't know!

While watching,
Mothers about running you see
In trying to save them
From the metal deadly small things
They don't know where they come from
The same is like
The unannounced rain!



So Is It

Maria do Ceu Costa

It is to have and not to have
It is joy and sorrow
In every day since dawn
It is to work, to act, to remember
It is to know how to forgive, it is to love.

It is time clockwise moving
In every moment an awakening
It is life we respect
It is this complex walking
It is work coming next.

It is the divine light shining bright
It is the soul strength cheering
It is to accept, and wish to understanding
It is to build, to act, to look ahead
So is it... to live!



The Candlelight

Francisco Langa

Through the dark night
With its light light
She stands on her foot
The only one foot she was given
Two feet humans were luckily given...

To give us light
And help us see through the night
She stands on that foot
The only one foot
On which she stands on to keep her light

Woman out of man's rib came to see such light
Male and female, the bottom and top
The flame on her thread consumes her from top
While you see the wax melting
The candle slowly dies, she dies standing!



The Dance Of Seasons

Maria do Ceu Costa

This natural dance of seasons
Quickly moving its steps
Onto rhythms, colours, even snaps...
Pregnant with very good reasons

Vibrant summer days have gone
Leaving its golden records intact
Hopefully devising any project
From quiet, gentle autumn drawn

Complying with this dance of Nature
One should respect its movement
And feel grateful for every moment
That fosters any positive adventure.

Yet, we fear some sadness
Of the cold winter days
If the sun hides its rays
She might lose her happiness.

Longing for the next spring
May be an endurance time
So, let's get busy, delve into rhyme
Until the Creator invites us to sing...

Waiting for the train

Francisco Langa

raising eyes
looked at those sitting there
across the platform
when they stood up
one by one
it was coming
thought it was coming
the whistle, oh! Heard it
looked at the horizon
saw nothing but the empty
motionless blue sky
it's coming
really it's coming
the train is coming





Painted Landscape

Maria do Ceu Costa

An intense mist
Covered the background.
Animals and children
Hardly were found...

Trees and bushes dressed the park
Alongside yellow tulips,
Harebells, cinquefoils,
Enjoying the singing skylark.

The ELT Reading Group

Our objectives

- To encourage English language teachers to read literature in English, creating opportunities to get in contact with texts from different countries, periods and authors;
- To promote debate and an in-depth engagement with relevant issues through the discussion of works literature;
- To provide opportunities for teachers to talk to each other online underpinning the reading habit and building an ELT community of readers;
- To help English language educators to see other points of view connecting them to a wider world, other philosophies and new ideas building bridges between, and insight into, other cultures thus contributing to build tolerance and intercultural competence;
- To create opportunities for English Language teachers to develop their own language skills, increasing vocabulary, improving pronunciation and increasing their understanding of idiom and expressions as well as their command of the language as a whole.

Our resources

To make the reading material widely accessible, the texts are chosen from free online sources. Links to short stories, poems and novels are posted to the Group website. Texts are chosen based on their accessibility, interest and potential to raise debate on complex and relevant issues. Besides the texts, you will also find links to related content and links to Literature Teaching Resources.

Join the debate

To become a member of the ELT Online Reading Group, you just need to register and post a message to the Welcome page introducing yourself.

Read the texts and then go to the Forum to share your ideas with readers from around the world.

The ELT Online Reading Group

<http://eltreadinggroup.weebly.com>

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