



# 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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