

**2024 Francescutti Scholarship of Excellence:  
'A story inspired by Gianni Rodari'**



*Gianni Rodari immersed in his literary world represented in images*

Accademia dei Ragazzi is pleased to present to its students the third **Francescutti Scholarship of Excellence**, valued up to \$2,000. It entails **four scholarships dedicated to children and teens who have distinguished themselves in their studies** at Accademia in 2024. This year, our students will work on a **project titled 'A story inspired by Gianni Rodari'**. Students are asked to delve into the nursery rhymes **The Holiday Land**, or **Meow! Hi!** or **The shortest fairy tale** by Gianni Rodari and write a brief essay that touches on the themes addressed by the great Italian writer.

*Gianni Rodari (23 October 1920 - 14 April 1980) was an Italian writer and journalist. For his lasting contribution as a children's author, he received the biennial Hans Christian Andersen Medal in 1970. He is considered as Italy's most important 20th-century children's author and his books have been translated into many languages. Cherished by generations of readers, his irreverent fairy tales encouraged children to question authority and think for themselves (source: Wikipedia).*

The 2024 Francescutti Scholarship of Excellence, valued up to \$2,000, will be divided into four age groups:

- 1) **Primary Division (ages 6-8): \$350** scholarship value
- 2) **Junior Division (ages 9-11): \$450** scholarship value
- 3) **Intermediate Division (ages 12-13): \$550** scholarship value
- 4) **High School (ages 14-17): \$650** scholarship value

Project 'A story inspired by Gianni Rodari':

This project **differs in expectations based on students' age group and language proficiency level**, it can be submitted in digital or paper format and must be designed/written following these guidelines:

- 1) Primary Division (years 6-8): Younger children are asked to represent the nursery rhyme **The Holiday Land** by Gianni Rodari in an image and describe their drawing with a **brief essay of 30-60 words in Italian**. The artwork must be in color on A4 or A3 paper, and the project may be submitted on a Bristol board.

**Il Paese delle Vacanze, Gianni Rodari**

*Il Paese delle Vacanze  
non sta lontano per niente:  
se guardate sul calendario  
lo trovate facilmente.  
Occupi, tra Giugno e Settembre,  
la stagione più bella.  
Ci si arriva dopo gli esami.  
Passaporto, la pagella.  
Ogni giorno, qui, è domenica,  
però si lavora assai:  
tra giochi, tuffi e passeggiate  
non si riposa mai.*

**The Holiday Land, Gianni Rodari**

*The Holiday Land  
it's not far away at all:  
if you look on the calendar  
you can easily find it.  
It occupies, between June and September,  
the most beautiful season.  
We get there after the final school exams.  
Passport, report card.  
Every day here is Sunday,  
but a lot of work goes on:  
busy with games, dives and walks  
we never rest.*

- 2) Junior Division (years 9-11): Nine to 11 year old students are asked to represent the nursery rhyme **Meow! Hi!** by Gianni Rodari in an image and describe their drawing with a **brief essay of 60-90 words in Italian**. The artwork must be in color on A4 or A3 paper, and the project may be submitted on a Bristol board.

**Miao! Ciao! di Gianni Rodari**

*Mi piacerebbe un giorno  
poter parlare  
con tutti gli animali  
Che ve ne pare?  
Chissà che discorsi geniali  
sanno fare i cavalli;  
che storie divertenti  
conoscono i pappagalli,  
i coccodrilli, i serpenti...  
Una semplice gallina  
che fa l'uovo ogni mattina  
che lo taglia a metà.  
chissà cosa ci vuol dire  
con il suo coccodè...  
E l'elefante, così grande e grosso,  
la deve saper lunga  
più della sua proboscide.  
Ma chi lo capisce  
quando barrisce?  
Nemmeno il gatto  
può dirci niente.  
Domandagli come sta:  
Non ti risponde affatto.  
O - al massimo - fa «miao»  
che forse vuol dire «ciao».*

**Meow! Hi! by Gianni Rodari**

*I would love to one day  
be able to talk  
with all animals  
What do you think?  
Who knows what brilliant speeches  
horses can make;  
what funny stories  
parrots, crocodiles,  
snakes know...  
A simple chicken  
who lays an egg every morning  
which cuts it in half.  
who knows what a chicken means  
by chirping...  
And the elephant, so big and sturdy,  
it must know many  
more things than his trunk.  
But who understands it  
when it trumpets?  
Not even a cat  
can tell us anything.  
Ask a cat how it is doing:  
It doesn't answer you at all.  
Or - at most - it says "meow"  
which perhaps means "hello".*

- 3) Intermediate Division (years 12-13): Twelve and 13 year old students are asked to write a **brief essay of around 100 words** in Italian inspired by **The shortest fairy tale** by Gianni Rodari. The theme is **the value of silence** in a world full of noise and 'distractions'. The essay can be accompanied by a drawing. The artwork must be in color on A4 or A3 paper, and the project may be submitted on a Bristol board.
- 4) High School (years 14-17): Fourteen to 17 year old students are asked to write a **brief essay of around 140 words** in Italian inspired by **The shortest fairy tale** by Gianni Rodari. The theme is **the value of silence** in a world full of noise and 'distractions'. The essay can be accompanied by a drawing. The artwork must be in color on A4 or A3 paper, and the project may be submitted on a Bristol board.

<p><b>La favola più corta</b> (Gianni Rodari, <i>Fiabe lunghe un sorriso</i>)</p> <p><i>Una volta tre novellatori fecero una gara, e avrebbe vinto quello che sapeva la favola più corta.</i></p> <p><i>Un primo novellatore raccontò una favola di cento parole.</i></p> <p><i>Il secondo raccontò una favola di cinquanta parole.</i></p> <p><i>Il terzo stette zitto e nulla raccontò.</i></p> <p><i>- Be', allora? - dissero gli altri due. - Non dici niente, tu?</i></p> <p><i>- Ho già finito. La mia favola s'intitola: Il silenzio è d'oro.</i></p> <p><i>I suoi compagni riconobbero che la sua era stata la favola più corta e gli dettero il premio. Ma io non so che premio sia stato.</i></p>	<p><b>The shortest fairy tale</b> (Gianni Rodari, <i>Fiabe lunghe un sorriso</i>)</p> <p><i>Once upon a time three storytellers had a competition, and the one who knew the shortest story would win.</i></p> <p><i>The first storyteller told a tale of one hundred words.</i></p> <p><i>The second told a tale of fifty words.</i></p> <p><i>The third remained silent and said nothing.</i></p> <p><i>- Well, then? - said the other two. - You don't say anything, do you?</i></p> <p><i>- I'm already done. My fairy tale is called: Silence is golden.</i></p> <p><i>His mates recognized that his story was the shortest and gave him the prize. But I don't know what the prize was.</i></p>
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#### Participation Criteria:

In order to win the Francescutti Scholarship of Excellence, students must **be enrolled in one of Accademia's Italian courses** in the current 2024 school year.

*\*Accademia dei Ragazzi reserves the right to keep the entries in its school archive.*

#### Selection Criteria:

Accademia will appoint an **independent jury** who will evaluate the entries. Selection criteria are:

- The entry's **quality of the art / clarity and depth of the content**;
- The **student's freedom of thought and error** (without any adult's 'interference');
- The **creativity** shown by our children and youth.

#### Submission Date:

The **submission date** for the culminating project titled 'A story inspired by Gianni Rodari' is **Saturday, June 15, 2024**. Entries must be sent in **digital format** via email to [mattia.bello@accademiadeiragazzi.ca](mailto:mattia.bello@accademiadeiragazzi.ca), or they must be submitted in **paper format** in class to a teacher. Our Executive Director Mattia Bello will collect the projects and present them to an **independent jury**.

#### Student Scholarship Ceremony:

In celebration of student success, the four scholarships tied to the Francescutti Scholarship of Excellence will be presented during Accademia's **Graduation Day and Scholarship Ceremony** on

**Saturday, June 22, 2024.** All students who submit this project will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Accademia's Executive Director, Mattia Bello at [mattia.bello@accademiadeiragazzi.ca](mailto:mattia.bello@accademiadeiragazzi.ca).

Accademia dei Ragazzi would like to thank Carlo Francescutti and his company *Halloween and Hobby* for this fantastic partnership.

Happy learning and the best of luck to all our students!

Best wishes,  
Accademia dei Ragazzi