

## Roberto Piumini's speech

Good morning. I hope you will forgive me if, at the outset of this conference, I make reference to an unorthodox concept of multilingualism.

The *multilingualism* that most concerns me is not the translation of my writings into foreign languages, or the translation of foreign texts – especially poetry – that I, myself, have done for both young and adult readers. My *multilingualism* is confined to the sphere of the Italian language and culture and has to do with the *quantity of languages* that I have used and continue to use – over and above the literary and communicative quality I may have achieved.

My publishing repertory includes nursery rhymes, poetry, poems, fairy stories, short stories, novels, rewritings and embellishments of ancient mythology, theatrical texts in prose and verse, song lyrics, ballads, musical works, guides to places and cities in poetry, translations, abridged versions, and apocryphal writings. My publications have also included books for adults, and I have contributed to creating the image that the two literatures form a single corpus, not two separate entities. Adapting some of my writings for children to an adult audience, I created a writing style that grows with its reader, proposing a special progressive reading experience.

Outside the strict book-publishing sphere, I have written texts to accompany and stimulate the appreciation of painting, sculpture and photography in museums and picture galleries.

As to my method of working, I have written poetry, poems and theatrical texts about memory and past events, the experience of graphic art and its expression by young and older children as well as adults as part of a linguistic exchange, in local situations and for the duration of a personal encounter.

As to my method of interaction, I have held meet-the-author sessions, readings and been part of theatrical shows with actors and musicians, using various ways to put into practice orality and physical presence, which are among the key values of writing for children and young adults.