

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Storia Universale (from Favole al telefono)
by Gianni Rodari¹

In the beginning, the Earth was a complete shambles. We made things better with a lot of work. There were no bridges to cross rivers by, and no benches to sit on. If you wanted to take a nap, there would be no beds and no bedsheets. There were no shoes to keep your feet warm, nor socks for that matter. If you had blurry vision, there would be no glasses. There were no volleyballs to play volleyball with, and if you wanted to boil some pasta, you couldn't find a pot or a stoves anywhere. In fact, there was no pasta, either! There was pretty much nothing. There were just people like you and me, who wanted to improve things. Today, there is still lots to be done: roll up your sleeves, there's work for everyone!

¹Unauthorized translation by Victor Elgersma.