

Brief History of The World

Gianni Rodari

Translated (with liberties) by Victor Elgersma

In the beginning, the Earth was a complete shambles. It cost us a lot of hard work to make it more livable. Needed to cross a river? You would have been out of luck: there were no bridges. Wanted to sit down for a bit? Tough luck again. As far as the eye could see there were no benches, stools, or chairs. Needed a quick cat-nap? There were no beds, and no bedsheets. There were no shoes to protect your cold feet, nor socks for that matter. If you had blurry vision, you couldn't simply walk to the optician, and get a 2-for-1 discount because there were no glasses, and no optician. There were no volleyballs to play volleyball, and if you wanted to boil some pasta, there were no stoves. In fact, there was no pasta. There was pretty much nothing. There were just people like you and me, with a desire to make things better. But there's still lots to be done: roll up your sleeves, there's work for everyone!