



An injured sparrow

Text: Josep Vallverdú
Illustrations: Pilarín Bayés



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An injured sparrow

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Víctor had just been to the garden. He was carrying something in his hands, as if he was carrying a treasure. His grandpa was at the door.

–Look what I found.

–What is it?

–A bird. He can't fly. He was on the ground.

–Let me see.

It was a sparrow. Opening his hands stained with blood, Víctor revealed the animal. The little bird had an injury in his chest.

Wash yourself with the hosepipe, said grandpa.
“What are we going to do with this sparrow.
He must be badly injured” he thought.





Then, Claudia, Victor's little sister, arrived.

–What's this? - she asked out of curiosity.

–It's a sparrow! - shouted her brother.

–V́ctor, what do you want to do with him? - asked grandpa.

–We have to heal his injury, don't we?

–Poor little bird! - said Claudia.

–Let's bandage him up and leave him in the cage where we used to keep the canary.

–And will he get healed?



It was the only thing the two siblings could think about. They bandaged the sparrow, while he moved his head and opened his beak.

–Maybe he is hungry - said Claudia.

–Maybe he is thirsty - said Víctor.

–Wait - said grandpa. Use a spoon.

They wetted his beak, he was lying down. The little bird blinked.

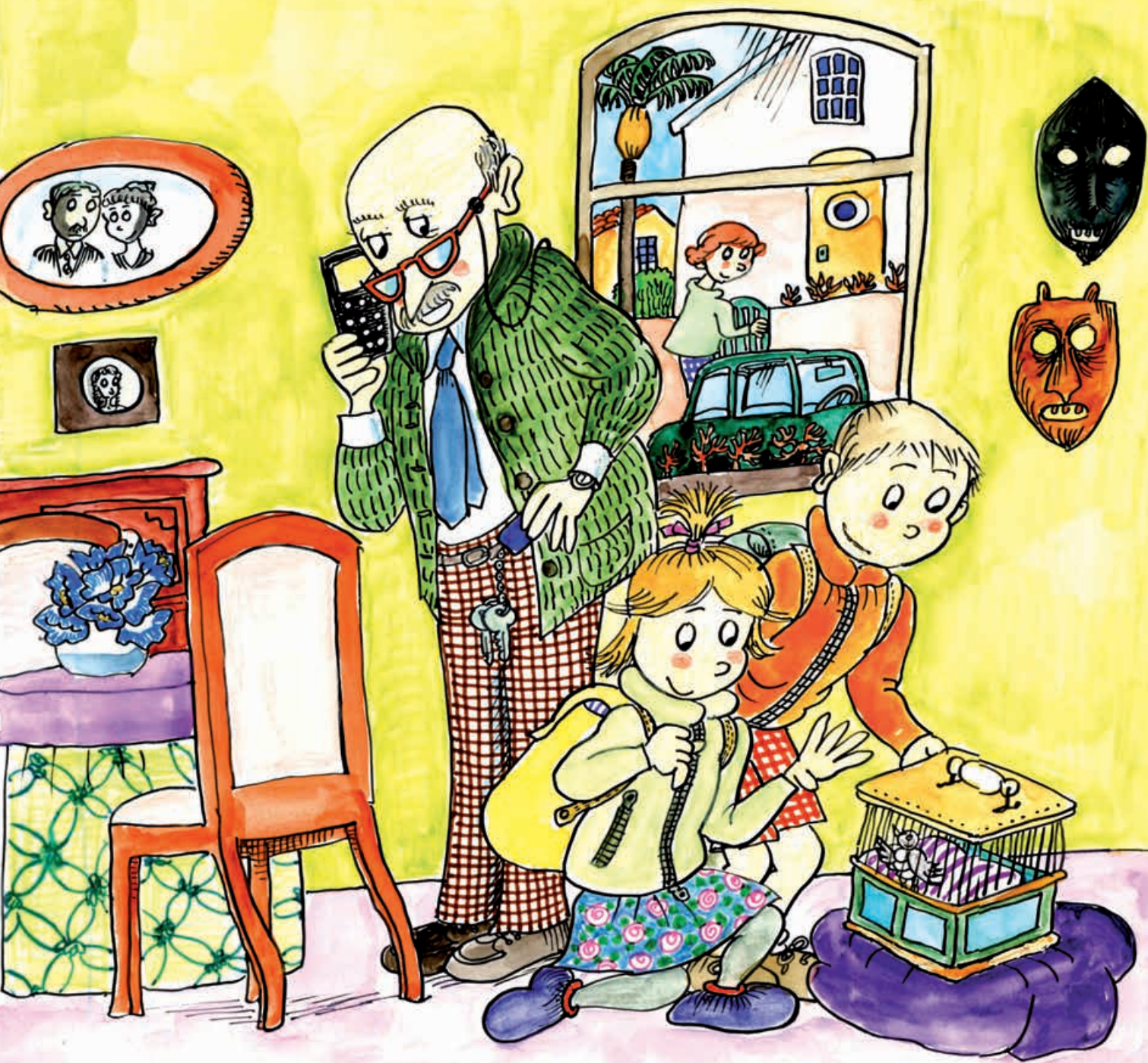
–What can we call him? What name can we give him? - Claudia asked.

–Pinxo, Bequet, Nano, Piu-piu...

–Forget about names now and tidy up the plates and cups. Then, brush your hair and I'll take you to school.

After that, the telephone rang: it was grandma calling from work.





- Ramon, are the children ready?
- Grandma, Grandma, Granny, Granny, Nan, Nan!
- Don't shout, -said grandpa. I'll bring them now, Xon.

They picked up their bags. The two siblings went to see the bird.

- Tweet, tweet...-made Clàudia. And the bird opened his eyes for an instant.
- He knows me, he knows me, he called me "Clàudia" !

Once they were in the car, Víctor let out a moan.

- C'mon, don't complain, said grandpa. He is bandaged and resting. The wound will stop bleeding.

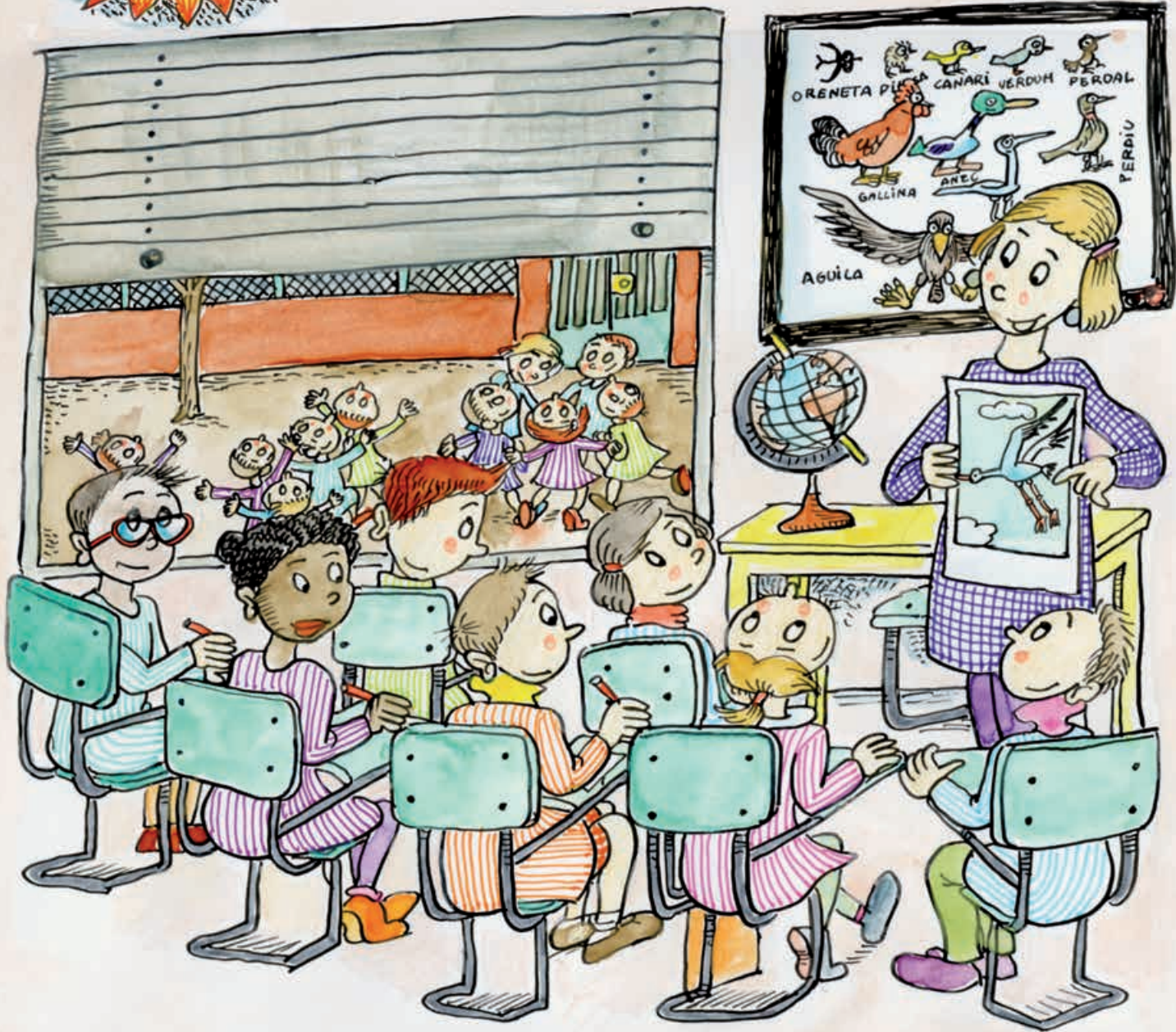


At the school grandma ran, the word quickly spread that Clàudia and Victor owned a bird. That day, all the lessons were about birds: sparrows, swallows, goldfinches... The two siblings were thinking about Piu-piu.

–You are two crybabies -said grandma-. I’m sure the bird you are talking about is stronger than you.
–All right, grandma Xon, we’ll stop whining.

Break time! The bell had rung. And the ones who looked like a cloud of birds were all the boys and girls running in the playground.







In the afternoon, on the way back from school, grandma Xon stopped to visit her niece, a doctor who worked at the Hospital.

-Núria, I've brought the children with me.

-How sweet! –said Núria -Do you want a quick check-up from your aunty doctor? An injection? Do you?

She was joking, but Víctor wittily suggested:

–Listen, why don't you heal our bird?

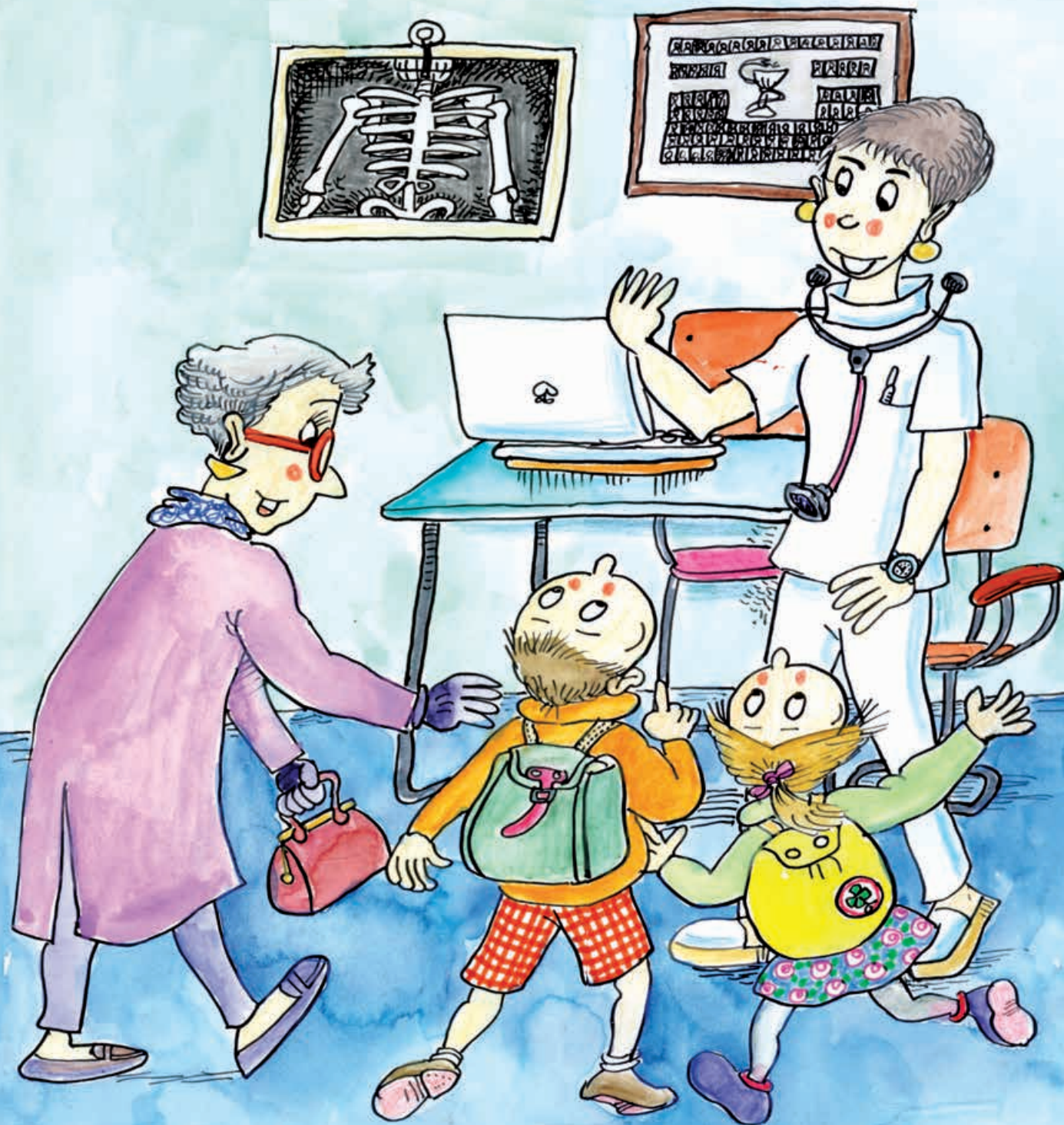
–Which bird? –Núria didn't understand what on earth was going on.

–My bird, -the boy claimed.

–Hey, he is also mine! –Clàudia shouted.

–I found an injured bird. He had lost a lot of blood. Grandpa and I bandaged him and now he is in the cage, resting. Give him a “fusion”.

-A blood transfusion, you mean?



Núria was so surprised.

–Let's see: do you know what a blood transfusion is?

–I think it's the transfer of blood from one person to another.

–And do you know how this is made?

–Well, that I could give my blood to the bird..?

–Nooo. It's from person to person. Look, this evening I'll come by your place and you introduce me the bird...has it got a name?

–Piu-piu, -answered Clàudia.

Meanwhile, they got some news. Grandpa called and said that the little bird had his eyes open all the time.

Clàudia shouted:

–Give Piu-piu a kiss.





Aunty Núria brought a video that showed a blood transfusion.

Attached to a person's arm, there was a tube connected to a bag through which blood was transported.

–How easy!

–It is, isn't it? What is the most important thing in a blood transfusion?

–The blood.

–No: the donors. If we have generous blood donors and volunteers, we have blood. It's important to have a lot of young boys and girls who donate: we will save many lives, heal injured people, diseases. Around the world, there are a lot of people who donate blood.

–And we, Clàudia and I... can we be donors?

–Of course! When you grow older, we'll be waiting for you.



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Grandma and grandpa were so happy and touched.

–How's the bird doing? – asked the children suddenly.

–The bird –explained grandpa- has just got on his feet. He's out of danger.

Víctor and Clàudia called out at once:

–We are going to be donors!





Footnote:

The characters in this story are real, of flesh and blood, and good people; One day you will meet people like them.

The bird is the only invented character. It doesn't matter, does it?

The Catalan Federation of Blood Donors would like to thank Pilarín Bayés and Josep Vallverdú for their collaboration in the dissemination of a generous and altruist attitude such as blood donation. With this tale, values acquisition and educating with example are promoted..

Thank you so much, Pilarín and Josep! !



Pilarín

Pilarín Bayés i de Luna ((born in Vic, 21 April 1941)

In 1964 she graduated at the Escola Superior de Belles Arts de Sant Jordi – University of Barcelona. She is a renown Catalan illustrator and cartoonist. She started her professional career at Cavall Fort magazine. From her first book “El meu pardal” (My Sparrow) to this one “Un pardalet ferit” (An injured Sparrow), she has illustrated a thousand books, two of them written by Josep Vallverdú. She has collaborated in countless publications and expositions. Her commitment to Catalonia is reflected in her work. She has taken advantage of her travel enthusiasm to become a truly graphic chronicler of cultures, territories, places and characters of all eras. Her work is renown both in Catalonia and worldwide due to her wide culture and human quality.

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Awards:

- Creu de Sant Jordi de la Generalitat de Catalunya (1991)
- Premi Serra d’Or (1992)
- Medalla d’Or de la Ciutat de Vic (2011)
- Premi Comte Jaume d’Urgell (2014)
- Premi Socarrada Major (2018)



Josep Vallverdú i Aixalà (born in Lleida, 9 July 1923)

He graduated in Philosophy and Arts at the University of Barcelona. He has been combining teaching with translating, essay writing, storytelling, and playwriting. His prolific and diversified work, more than a hundred pieces, is especially renowned for the stories addressed to younger readers. In 2000, Ocon films and Enciclopèdia Catalana started the animated adaptation of the series of novels Rovelló in 26 episodes for television. He is Honorary Member of the Writers Association in Catalan language.

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- Doctor Honoris causa per la Universitat de Lleida (2004)
- Premi Jaume Fuster dels Escriptors en Llengua Catalana (2012)

