

Andreas Constantinides

Hans Christian Andersen Author Award 2018

Nominated by IBBY Cyprus



CV TRANSLATION

Andreas Constantinides was born in Agios Theodoros Soleas (Nicosia district) by farmer parents in 1940. His attendance at Solea High School coincided with the National Liberation Struggle which had deeply affected both his later life and work.

The Turkish insurgence in 1963-64 found him volunteering in Pentadaktilos by joining the company of the heroic captain Ganakis. The specific group had accepted to retreat only when the first soldiers of the newly formed National Guard replaced them.

He studied pedagogy at the Cyprus Pedagogical Academy and continued his education at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute as well as the University of Athens. He also studied journalism in Athens.

He worked for forty years as a teacher in all levels of the Cyprus Primary Education.

He is married to Helen and they have three sons and a daughter. Their children gifted them with twelve grandchildren.

He was a Founding Member and Executive Secretary of Children Library's Club and for 25 years he was a regular collaborator of the "Paidiki Chara" magazine. He is also a member of the Cypriot Section of the I.B.B.Y.

As a writer he has visited hundreds of schools all around Cyprus for communicating the essence of his books to students and generally to the field of Children's Literature.

He has attended literary seminars as spokesman in both Cyprus and Greece and he has published articles in newspapers and magazines in the aforementioned countries.

A series of thesis have been written for him in Cypriot and Greek universities and his works have been published in anthologies and encyclopedias in Cyprus, Greece and Germany.

Sixty of his poems have been set to music and have been published in music books addressing universities and schools.

AWARDS

He was twice awarded with the Cyprus State Award.

He was four times awarded with the Women's Literary Team Athens Award.

He was again four times awarded by the Cypriot Section of the I.B.B.Y.

He was three times awarded with the Hellenic Cultural Group of Greek Cypriots' Award.

He was awarded with the Hellenic Literary Society Award.

He was awarded by the Circle of the Greek Children's Book. He was also honored with many other distinctions in Cyprus, Greece and abroad (Bavaria, Munich, Johannesburg).

His book "At the Course of Liberty" is included in the Honorary List of the International Board on Books for Young People and his book "The Great Struggle" is included in the Honorary List of the Library of Munich.

In 2010, the Award Committee of the Cyprus Organization of Greek Teachers presented him with the award of Exceptional Offer to Letters, Arts and Culture.

WORKS OF ANDREAS CONSTANTINIDES

1. "Mirto's Book"- Rodoharama – 1982 (Praise by Women's Literary Team Athens - unpublished- and Cyprus State Award 1282)

2. "Heroic Years" 1984- 3rd edition 1991 (Awarded by the Circle of the Greek Children's Book 1984)
3. "The Great Struggle" 1985- 3rd edition 1996 (Awarded by Women's Literary Team Athens, 1984)
4. "Drosopigi". 1986. (Awarded by Women's Literary Team Athens, 1984)
5. "Children's Heartbeats". 1987- 3rd edition 1995 (Awarded by the Hellenic Cultural Group of Greek Cypriots, 1987).
6. "The Song of the Nightingale". 1988-2nd edition, 1997 (Awarded by the Hellenic Cultural Group of Greek Cypriots, 1987).
7. "A Storyteller Granddad". 1990-2nd edition, 1997 (Awarded by the Hellenic Cultural Group Cyprus).
8. "At the Course of Liberty". 1992-2nd edition and included in the Honorary List of I.B.B.Y-1998.
9. "The Flea, the Louse and the Monk". 1993-3rd edition, 2006. (Praise by the Cypriot Section of the I.B.B.Y, 1993).
10. "I Honor your Passion, My Island". 1994 (Cyprus State Award).
11. "Turn, Winder, Turn"-Edition Epiphaniou, 1987.
12. "Uncle's Isidore's Stories". 1996-2nd edition, 2004 (Hellenic Literary Society, 1995).
13. "Eight True Stories". Patakis Publishing, Athens. 1988-6th edition, 2008 (Awarded by Women's Literary Team Athens, 1987).
14. "These Are Not Fairytales"- Paratiritis Publishing –Thessaloniki, 1999-2nd edition-Power Publishing LTD, 2005.
15. "My Grandma's Narrations...."- Parga Publishing, Athens. 2003 (Praise by the Greek Society of Christian Letters, Athens, 1991).
16. "At the House of Dreams"- Power Publishing LTD, 2004.
17. "The Elephant and his Trunk"- Power Publishing LTD, 2005. (Illustrations State Award, 2006).

18. "The Water's Song"- Power Publishing LTD, 2006 (Praise by the Cypriot Section of the I.B.B.Y, 1995 and Honorary Mention by NOUMAS magazine, Athens 1995).
19. "The Cat and the Princess"- Power Publishing LTD, 2007.
20. "The Waterpumpkin"- Parga, Athens 2008.
21. "The Swan was Apollo's Son" – Power Publishing LTD, 2009.
22. "The Owl was a Carefree Boy" - Power Publishing LTD, 2009.
23. "Those Christmas"- Power Publishing LTD, 2009.
24. "Rose Aroma"- Power Publishing LTD, 2012 (Awarded by the Cypriot Section of the I.B.B.Y, 2011).
25. "Seven Remarkable Stories"- Ilia Epiphaniou Publishing, 2012.
26. "Children's Smiles" - Power Publishing LTD, 2015. (Awarded by the Cypriot Section of the I.B.B.Y, 2013).

AWARDS AND HONORS

1. 16-1-1990. Award by "Eleutheri Kithrea" Association for his poem "Become Cyprus' Fountain". Nicosia. Cyprus.
2. December, 1981. Praise by Women's Literary Team Athens, for his work "Mirto's Book".
3. April 27th, 1982. Cyprus State Award for his work "Mirto's Book". Nicosia. Cyprus.
4. 12-3-83. Award by "Evagoras Pallikarides" Association for his poetic collection "Heroic Years". Pafos. Cyprus.
5. Dec. 1983. Award by Women's Literary Team Athens for his poetic collection "Drosopigi". Athens. Hellas.
6. Dec. 1984. Award by the Circle of Greek Children's Book for his poetic collection "Heroic Years". Athens. Hellas.
7. Dec. 1984. Award by Women's Literary Team Athens for his novel "The Great Struggle". Athens. Hellas.

8. April 2nd, 1985. Praise by the Cypriot Section of I.B.B.Y. for his work "Your Passion, My Country". Nicosia. Cyprus.
9. May 1st. 1985. Award by Famagusta Refugees Movement for his poem "My Famagusta". Limassol. Cyprus.
10. June 26th, 1986. Award by Hellenic Cultural Group Cyprus for his poetic collection "Children's Heartbeats". Nicosia. Cyprus.
11. November, 1986. Award by "AGON" newspaper for his novel "Conversion". Nicosia-Cyprus.
12. April 2nd, 1987. Award by the Cypriot Section of I.B.B.Y for his poetic collection "The Nightingale's Song". Nicosia-Cyprus.
13. December, 1987. Award by Women's Literary Team Athens for his narrative collection "Eight True Stories" Athens. Hellas.
14. February 3rd. 1988. Praise by the Cypriot Section of I.B.B.Y for his poetic collection "The Months' Song". Nicosia-Cyprus.
15. April, 1988. Praise by the Cypriot section of I.B.B.Y for his work "These are not Fairytales. They're Partially True". Nicosia. Cyprus.
16. April, 2nd, 1990. Praise by the Cypriot section of I.B.B.Y for his poetic collection "Smiles". Nicosia, Cyprus.
17. December 20th, 1991. Praise by the Greek Society of Christian Letters for his poetic collection "My Grandma Speeds Up", Athens, Hellas.
18. April, 2nd, 1993. Praise by the Cypriot section of I.B.B.Y for his work "I Honor Your Passion, My Island". Nicosia. Cyprus.
19. 25-11-1994. Cyprus State Award for his work "I Honor Your Passion my Island". Nicosia. Cyprus.
20. 1994. Certificate of Honor Award for Writing by I.B.B.Y for his work "Poria pros tin Eleutheria", "To the Route for Freedom". Seville. Spain.
21. February 20th, 1995. Award by Hellenic Literary Society for his narrative collection "My Uncle Isidore's Stories". Nicosia. Cyprus.
22. March, 1995. Praise by Greek Litterateurs' Group Athens for his narrative "At Our Daughter's wedding". Athens, Hellas.

23. May 8th, 1995. Praise by the Cypriot section of I.B.B.Y for his work "The Water's Song". Nicosia- Cyprus.
24. June, 1996. Honorary Mention of "NOUMAS" magazine for his work "The Water's Song". Athens, Hellas.
25. 1996. Award by Spiritual Group of Johannesburg, South Africa for his poem "The Night Digenis was Born". Johannesburg, 1996.
26. 2000. Honorary Distinction by the Bavarian Group of Greek Logos, Art and Civilization for his poem "Olympia's Light". Munich, 2000.
27. December 27th, 2004. Annual Honorary Diploma by the President of Cyprus Republic for his contribution to the structuring of Modern Cultural Physiognomy of Cyprus.
28. November 19th, 2010. Cyprus Organization of Greek Teachers presented him with the award of Exceptional Offer to Letters, Arts and Culture. Nicosia, Cyprus.
29. May 13th, 2011. Award by the Cypriot section of I.B.B.Y for his poetic collection "Rose Aroma". Nicosia-Cyprus.
30. April 27th, 2012. Praise by the Cypriot Section of I.B.B.Y for his novel "Of Little Marina". Nicosia, Cyprus.
31. May 24th, 2013. Award by the Cypriot Section of I.B.B.Y for his poetic collection "Children's Smiles". Nicosia-Cyprus.
32. June 3rd, 2015. Award by the Cypriot Section of I.B.B.Y for his poetic collection "The Months' Song". Nicosia-Cyprus.

Six books by Andreas Constantinides sent to the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Jury

1. The Great Struggle (Novel)
2. Eight True Stories (Narratives)
3. At the House of Dreams (Novel)
4. I Honor Your Passion My Island (Poems)
5. My Grandma's Narrations ... Stories filled with Honey (16 narrative poems)
6. Rose Aroma (poems)

Andreas Constantinides' Book Reviews

The Nightingale's Song

By Dr. Costa Catsoni, philologist and researcher of Youth Literature.

"The Nightingale's Song" is awarded by IBBY and it was circulated in a very well-cared edition in Nicosia in 1998. The illustrations and the cover were made by Antroula Empedokleous and were subsidized by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation.

Starting from the title, I unconsciously think of the Seferian nightingale which is possible to have affected Andreas Constantinides' thinking as he pondered for the ideas included in his own poetic composition. Nightingales don't sleep in April, the poet claims according to a folk saying.

"Nightingales don't sleep/ they just sing / out of the high balconies. They don't let me, they don't let me / close my eyes / and they told me from the depths of my soul / their story to narrate.

The nightingale's song is full of complaint... "In the first day of April / it abandons its parents / it goes to the ravine"... it sings, it plays and forgets its worries but in the morning it is found captured in a little cage weaved by a wild bush... "And it struggles and it is entangled / and it is entangled and it struggles / and it tries to be saved / and its mischief was a teaching / and it swears and it swears / not to live another dare". When it is finally free, it begins to sing a song which according to the poet "it's the world's sweetest... /it's an open alphabet book/ and it has a child's grace".

Hence, the nightingale's song carries a complaining tone since it is about to narrate its own longings. If we examine this poem in depth, we will ascertain the fact that our mind is driven in other directions by the poetic symbols employed: directed to the struggles our island had to undergo in order to gain its freedom, struggles which were or were not met with success.

But life goes on as the nightingale continues to sing about the spring, the nature, the sky, the sun... "The man whose kingdom is all the land / it sings, it sings, it

sings, it sings: little bird, little kid/ lots of joys to live/ come to play with me / search for joy, come with me!

Thus, the grievous nightingale, being identified with the poet himself since it does not "want to live another dare", it concentrates (similar to the poet's alert consciousness) and sings for life. Via its pain and distress, it finds the strength to send optimistic messages, to teach, admonish, excite childish consciousness, and sing for life, for beauty, for humans, in order to keep our hopes high.

The twenty-three poems are profoundly connected to the aforementioned intention which is concluded with a poem-epilogue referring to the alert nightingale. These twenty-four poems comprise the "open alphabet book" announced by the poet in his prologue poem "Why I Sing". And they are truly presented as an alphabet since every succeeding poem is like the next letter of the alphabet, using a different consecutive alphabet letter to every title.

It is clearly understood that the poet invests and puts all his hopes to the future, a better one which only the purest creature on earth can create: a child. The latter is called in the poems to discover together with the nightingale the beauty and joy of life.

This journey is unraveled in these twenty-four poems which are connected like chain links: love, boating, peaceful afternoon, Justice, Peace, Life, Sunshine, Sacrifice, Ideal Friend, Stubble, Lemon Trees, Bee, Blessed Water, Awakening, Beauty, Pray, Radiation, Cat-Dog Friendship, Cicadas, Bed Stories, Moon, Smiles, Lies And Truths, Time For Bed Little Nightingale. These are the titles of the poems which give us a first impression of the collection's content.

Except from the variety of the expression devices employed in the poems in order to transfer the poet's messages and the emotional pulse of a genuine poetic creation, the most impressing is the variety of rhyming, of rhythm and meter. We meet several kinds of rhyming and an even freer but careful rhyming along with a diverse meter. The rhythm is also changed from vivid and quick to slow, emotional and nostalgic whereas it might also turn to admonitory and sententious.

As it has been identified in his poetic collections, the poet belongs to the generation of special, contemporary litterateurs in the area of youth literature. It is an awakened consciousness, a genuine talent, a sensitive preceptor capturing messages of the times and with his poetic style he transforms them to art which causes

reflection and thrill. He elaborates on daily but crucial issues which touch a child's soul and trouble contemporary human. Peace, justice, love, children in pain, nature beauty, threatening dangers, hopes and dreams of both children and adults enter a different dimension via the poetic magic wand. In this dimension, the childish soul is called to face the future and the current situation positively and optimistically.

Concluding, I would like to attach the last poem of the collection, the epilogue used to end "The Nightingale's Song", the poet's song who creates, alerts, and is always ready to continue his mission, even if he remains a lone and neglected fighter.

TIME FOR BED, LITTLE NIGHTINGALE

The new day has come/ and I go to sleep/.

What I sang at night/ I wish to dream.

Come, night nightingale / go to sleep!

Come! You no longer have time to sing / the sun has woken.../

For bird singing no one has time.

Sleep, restless bird. / Soon the night will swift/

And if you have good mood / you begin again soon.

THOSE CHRISTMAS

By Giannaki Ioannou, Primary School Headmaster.

The latest literary creation –twenty-third in a row of the well-known and very talented writer of youth literature, Andreas Constantinides, is the book "Those Christmas". A very well-cared edition of POWER PUBLISHING – Nicosia 2009- illustrated by Antroula Empedokleous and supervised by Maria Neokleous.

When the writer gifted me the specific novel, he wrote in his dedication that by reading through it, I would relive experiences from my child memories during past

Christmas. Indeed, from page one I realized that I was reliving vivid images not just of my Christmas times as a child but also from my entire child life.

The novel, chronologically situated in the 50s and locally in a small village, Agios Theodoros Soleas- from where the author is originated- travels the reader in a series of farm life images in the mountainous areas of our island.

The storyline of the novel, based on true experiences of the author, who can be traced at the main character's role, takes place in a period not far from the current one yet so distant to the contemporary age of technology and Internet. The eleven chapters of the book cover a chronological period from the Christmas school holidays to the opening of schools and the return of the students on January eighth.

In spite of the fact that meanwhile the main character loses a loving person, his grandma, via her mental presence all the traditional Christmas celebrations are described. Thus, the book becomes a valuable source of folklore material without claiming to be a folklore research study. Many customs of our island, place names, beliefs and traditions facing extinction and oblivion are recorded naturally as part of the characters' daily activities. Images, like the priest's blessings in the village's houses with Holy Water, the dough of Christmas breads, the baking in the traditional oven, the slaughtering of the pig whose parts were fully used a day before Christmas, the process of transforming all the pig parts to edible delicacies, Santa Claus dinner, xerotiana (traditional type of sweet pastry) and the mythological trolls are all images shared by the adult readers' experiences. The same images though, excite children's imagination too even if their generation might have not similar memories to identify with. The daily difficulties of the villagers become the triggering events for social gatherings and interaction. Going to the river for washing the clothes or meeting at the village's fountain for collecting water offer the opportunity for such social exchange.

The reader experiences happy moments as he flips the pages of the book (such as children's traditional games: marbles, hopscotch, soccer with a ball made by a specific pig's part called "fouska"), tender family moments (such as igniting fire in their fireplace, setting the table or the baby's breastfeeding), moments of sorrow, pain and harsh reality (like the grandma's demise, the mourning and funeral). The reader lives the nostalgic life of the village, via representative images of poverty

and the struggle of the farmer for survival and also his struggle with the powerful elements of nature but always with love and respect.

Through the book's content, the cohesion of a multi-membered family is demonstrated since their offspring were getting mature from a very early age and contributed to family obligations. There are images of ten-year old or younger children working side by side with adults and preparing the traditional "fasolada" as carefully as grown-ups. The love and solidarity is dominant among family members as well as to the wider community of farmers.

The expression of respect to elders is also demonstrated via the kissing of their hand before singing the traditional song during Epiphany "kalimera tziai ta Fota tziai tin ploumistira prota" (children were singing and anticipated for a money reward). The relationship of the farmers with their animals is also outlined as well as their dependence on each other. The grazing of animals, the feeding of poultry, the picking of eggs, the wishes and the process of securing their well-being with Holy Water during Epiphany day are activities no longer witnessed. The novel though, becomes a strong reminder of all these abandoned practices as it also reminds us of folklore medicine.

The reader nostalgically experiences the conditions in which the children of that time received the minimum education possible in one-teacher schools. Yet, the love of learning and mutual acceptance was widespread at the hearing of the bell every morning which called the students to the micro cosmos of the school community. Another additional strong point of the novel is the relationship of man with nature, God, the saints and the religion in general.

Through a simple, plain and comprehensive standard Modern Greek language, the writer introduces familiar or forgotten words of the Cypriot Dialect. The child will meet his roots in a smooth, natural way and the adult will nostalgically be reminded the fasting, the trolls, the hen's nest, the bucket, the preparation of bread before baking and all of them labeled as were known in Cyprus tradition.

Another intense characteristic of the author is the expression devices employed to enliven his string of words. Vivid dialogues, a variety of suitable and representative adjectives, personifications, metaphors and similes, expressive imagery and even elements of poetic speech which are artfully positioned in the entire structure of the text.

As a conclusion, the book is addressed not just to eight, nine, ten year old children, but also to people who wish to travel nostalgically to the past and relive or meet scenes of the traditional Cypriot farm life.

Meeting the heroes of the novel, the adult reader will surely identify them with people from his own environment. Heroes like grandfathers Constantis and Aristodemos, grandma Kiriakou, parents Nikolis and Eleni, neighbors Finikou, Melani, Maritsa and Xenou and children's names Andreas, Costis, Aristides, Maroula, Theodoros, Aggelis, Friksos, Vasilis or Miltiades remind us of loving persons of our past and times that are quickly fading away.

Except from the aesthetic aspect of the novel, another goal set by the author is to sustain in our memories the novel's elements and be transferred to younger generation in order to keep our cultural identity alive.

Congratulations to the author and we wish him health, strength and inspiration for future editions.

My Grandma's Narrations...

Stories filled with Honey

Awarded by the Greek Society of Christian Letters, Athens, 1991

PARGA PUBLISHING, ATHENS, 2003

By Doros Theodoulou, philologist-Critic and researcher of Youth Literature

In this book, Andreas Constantinides publishes 16 narrative poems interpreting the importance of the teachings mirrored in Cypriot proverbs. These were first published in PADIKI CHARA magazine and were very popular among Cypriot children and teachers.

Myths and traditions carrying didactic meanings were widespread from ancient times by a series of authors and especially Aesop.

In every poem by Andreas Constantinides, a Cypriot didactic proverb is employed and presented in around 50 verses. Such proverbs-sayings are the following:

- Where there are many roosters, dawn comes with difficulty.
- The donkey calls the rooster big-headed.
- When he/she doesn't go to the mill, he/she has nothing to eat!!!

etc.

All myths are written with vividness and bring joy and laughter to children as well as to adults since the verse format is also very well-cared.

An additional hardship that the poet successfully met, especially in this collection, was to invent a suitable story from every proverb. With this book, Andreas Constantinides employs in an innovative way, proverbs of our country and successfully ties our folklore with later generations.

I Honor Your Passion My Island

Nicosia 1993, p. 46.

By ANEMI magazine. Cypriot Children's Literature review.

The specific poetic collection is the ninth in the row poetic book for children and teenagers published by the well-known and awarded litterateur Andreas Constantinides.

This collection, illustrated by Antroulla Empedokleous, was honored with the Cyprus State Award in 1994.

It includes thirty-three poems divided in four units referring to contemporary Cyprus history.

The poet is inspired by his country's drama, the refugees, the eradication, the causes and consequences of the 1974 tragedy and transforms this distressful inspiration to poetic speech, honoring and singing our island's Passion.

The four units of the collection correspond to the four phases of the tragedy, as the poet defines them:

- Division
- Civil War
- Invasion
- Eradication-Visualizations

After having described the facts and the pain of eradication and forceful fleeing, the poet in the last unit presents poems of hope and anticipation for better days. Upcoming days characterized by freedom and justice of our tortured land.

Rose Aroma

Triantafillos and Rodanna

POWER PUBLISHING, NICOSIA 2012, p.64.

By Dr. Costa Catsoni, philologist and researcher of Youth Literature

The new poetic book by Andreas Constantinides "Rose Aroma" is a poetic collection honored with the Eugenia Palaiologou Petronda Poetry Contest Award in 2011.

The poet connects his poems with fairytale history narrated by two siblings Triantafillos and Rodanna. They set out for a journey in the world of nature, daily life with the sun, the clouds, the flowers, the rain, the snow, the moon, the nightingale, the spring and May but also joy, sorrow love and pray.

The entire above are described by the poems under the persona of the two siblings who travel to meet the world through the verses of Andreas Constantinides.

This book is an innovative and successful match of poetry and fairytales escorted by colored illustrations made by Antroulla Empedokleous.

Eight True Stories

PATAKI PUBLISHING, Athens 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006

p.36.

By Maria Michaelidou, Critic and researcher of Children's Literature

The book of the well-known poet and prose writer of Children's Literature Andreas Constantinides, titled "Eight True Stories" released in Athens in 1998 and republished seven times, includes eight narratives directed to children from nine years and onwards.

The children are the protagonists who experience pleasant moments via nature and farm life.

From the following titles "My Little Moon, Mother Yellowbird, Reconciliation, My old-Man, In the Storm, Tooulou's Oak, Mrs Xeni's Garden, The Fleeing" is apparent the fact that the writer offers the children narratives of another group of children who have the chance to experience the beauty and simplicity of farm life along with the trees, the running water, the birds, the animals, the sun, the moon and the stars.

The illustrations of the book included in PATAKI PUBLISHING in Athens, under the general title "Modern Literature for children and youth" was made by Tasos Misouras.

While reading through the book, you become a child and you experience with the help of the protagonists, the Greek child's love for nature and humans and you understand why it was awarded by the Women's Literary Team, Athens.

The Great Struggle

Illustrated by Antroulla Empedokleous

Nicosia p.115

Women's Literary Team Athens Award

By G. Gregoriadou-Sourelis. DIADROMES magazine, Children's Literature.

April 1955, E.O.K.A (National Organization of Cypriot Agonists) announces the beginning of the struggle for freedom against the English Colonialist.

Gradually, the students of a Cypriot Gymnasium are organized and participate in the struggle and their historic past is enlivened. They are the continuation of the heroic generations of the 1821 Revolution and the Macedonian Struggle.

The writer, who records the true dimension of the facts and the spirit of that time, is not drifted away by patriotic enthusiasm. His love for his country and his connection to motherland, Greece are derived from his vivid narrative.

What are really impressive are the direct confrontation of the enemy-opponent and the recognition of its strength.

By O AGON newspaper, Nicosia, February 8th, 1986.

Andreas Constantinides, the romantic poet, recently released a book in prose. It is a novel called "The Great Struggle" awarded by Women's Literary Team Athens.

The Great Struggle refers to the actual struggle of 1955-59 for the freedom of Cyprus. It is written in first person and it is very easy to read. Through the eyes of Nikolis who is identified with the writer himself, the reader experiences the heroic moments of the Cypriots' uprising against the English colonial boot.

Nikolis, a fifteen-year-old high school student, becomes a member of E.O.K.A and with the rest of his classmates, he offers whatever he can. The agonies, the heartbeats, the sitting-up late of the youth of that time are enlivened through the pages of the specific book.

The reader identifies him/herself with Nikolis and experiences the same intensive feelings he undergoes for his cause.

And this struggle, like any other, is full of sacrifices. Among the ones who offered their life, is CHRISANTHOS MILONAS, the writer's classmate. He is one of the many heroes who offered their life for the Freedom of their land.

The nine chapters of the book, written beautifully and artfully, can be characterized like a chronicle of the 1955 struggle which is vividly recorded in the 115 pages of the novel.

Antreas Constantinides

His poetic work for children

By Doros Theodoulou, Philologist, Researcher- Critic of Children's Literature.

Andreas Constantinides writes and publishes for children since 1982 and for almost 35 years. And he is only settled for Children's and Youth Literature. He is the writer of children and youth. He did not fall in the trap of thinking that he can serve both children and the general field of literature. From the beginning, he was presented ready for his writing adventures, equipped with literature virtues and technical means, clear targets and organization. Thus, he was awarded as soon as he published his first poetic collection "Mirto's Book-Rodoharama" and followed many other distinctions and awards. Today he is considered as one of the multi-awarded writers of Children's Literature in Cyprus. He has been awarded by the most official and recognized competitions of Children's Literature both in Greece and Cyprus. In the above I include Cyprus State Awards, the Cyprus section of IBBY, the Women's Literary Team Athens and the Circle of Greek Children's Book. His works were honored by competitions of other bodies with special purposes and interests, or occasional ones. It is also relevant the fact that some of his works followed a second publication while two prose works received a third and seventh edition. The last remark refers to "The Great Struggle" and "Eight True Stories".

Up to the present day, Andreas Constantinides has published 27 books and a 28th is under publication. From this amount, ten are prose writing, novels, and narrative-fairytales. The rest of them are poetic collections or poetic compositions. Almost all his poetic work has been awarded. Additionally, the first ten years he published eight poetic collections and only two prose writings and that is why he is considered mostly a poet for children. But we also ought to recognize him as a successful prose writer for children too.

Setting to evaluate the content, the format and literary quality of Constantinides' poetry for children, we should present a few statements of the critics who awarded him among which are well-known names of Children's' Literature in Cyprus and Greece. The choice of the statements was based on the way he approaches children, his emotional and moral ideological world, his literary virtues and the techniques employed and his attitude towards nature, life, people and his land:

...he approaches children in a simple and unfeigned way. Sensitivity, naivety, tenderness are his basic values... he adds a new note of goodness in Children's Poetry so much needed in our times. .. His poetry refers to nature, the world of imagination and in other daily human activities... he is characterized by a deep lyric tone, well-cared language, perfectly versed and a variety of stanza formats, rhyming and rhythm... he transfers feelings of optimism and faith to life, to humans and the entire world.... The poet is experienced and mature... with great comfort and confidence to his views and feelings of the world he directs his voice to the children... he is an excellent knower of the various metric, verse and stanza formats and rhythm of metrical poetry and he directs to children being full of joy and humor... the poems of the collection enliven the struggle of the Cypriot people for freedom during the period 1955-59... this work is characterized by poetic excellency and it preserves successfully folklore tradition since it connects children with their roots.

In an overall evaluation of Andreas Constantinides poetry for children, we can distinguish, among his 17 poetic collections, three group unities as to the content and the forms of children's poetry he follows. In the first group there are the most established collections with dozens of poems in each, independent of one another which from their thematic unity they maintain the general topic and expression of the poet. It is the lyrical kind of poetry with shorter poems along with the expression of his intellect and emotions. In this category, the following works can be found: "Mirto's Book-Rodoharama" (1982), "Drosopigi" (1986), "Children's Smiles" (1987), "The Nightingale's Song" (1988), "Children's Smiles" (2015) and "The Months' Song" (2012) (under publication). Andreas Constantinides was recognized and established through the above collections in the Cyprus Children's Poetry. Searching for similar examples in Greece, I came across Sofia Filntisi's collection "Poems for Children" Patakis-Athens 2003, which was awarded with the State Award and the Women's Literary Team Athens Award. A parallel reading of Andreas Constantinides

lyric collections reinforces our evaluations for the value and quality of his version of children's poetry.

In the second group-unity, the two following poetic compositions can be found: "Heroic Years" (1984) and "I Honor Your Passion My Island" (1993). These works are inspired by the struggle of our tiny island the last decades, and are directed to older children and teenagers and maintain the characteristics of poetic composition. In the collection "Heroic Years" subtitled "33 Rings in an Endless Chain", the poet forges the endless chain of Cyprus history which has started in 1955 and has not yet ended. The proud and heroic years remind us to whom we owe the bit of FREEDOM we share today.

The collection "I Honor Your Passion My Island" has more profound traits of poetic composition since it is structured in four units-acts. The poet mourns for the ill-fated Cyprus and he concludes by visualizing a brighter tomorrow. His lamenting tone remind us of the Solomic "To Psara's dark ridge/ Glory walked without each..." the begging and visualizations as well as the theatricality of the composition make the work look like a public oratorio, a requiem for Cyprus after 1974. It is directed to the young generation.

In the third group- unity I include the rest of his eight collections with narrative poems...

**A. Constantinides, *At the House of Dreams*, POWER
PUBLISHING, Nicosia, 2004.**

By Dr. Costa Catsoni, philologist and researcher of Youth Literature

Andreas Constantinides' book "At the House of Dreams" is a children's novel through which the writer manages to enliven and demonstrate the sphere of farm life filled with a tone of simplicity and vividness. He describes the daily life of such society by focusing on the religious and other traditions of this group of people. The main character is little Pavlakis, a five-year-old boy who lives with his parents and sister in a city but he soon discovers the joys offered by the counter village life when he is offered a stay there for Easter holidays. This functions as the triggering event for a literary tour to the beauty and joy offered by the unique environmental landscapes as maintained in our country and as experienced by the habitants there. These images are used in contrast to the noise and air pollution offered by the counter environment of a busy city.

Additionally, the writer elaborately highlights with literary skill, the natural beauty of the Cyprus countryside while he does not omit to record and describe the daily habits of the people there, including their religious practices during the Holy Week, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. The daily excursion of little Pavlakis at the fields with his grandparents, the attendance to church mass, other Easter traditions concerning traditional games and feasts of love. All the aforementioned, comprise the scene through which the connection of the villagers with nature is performed in combination to their deep religious attitude.

Conclusively, the writer via thirteen interconnected narratives which compose the novel enlivens and dissects the lives of simple villagers by highlighting their inner values: love, kindness, collaboration, solidarity, faith in God and respect in the country's traditions. Thus, useful and necessary messages are indirectly sent to the readers of all ages concerning the institution of family and human relations without a tendency to didactics. As a general remark, this well-written book is singled out for its literary virtues and is pleasantly read by junior and adult readers.