

**READING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FOR BOYS, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS WITH DEAFNESS-FIAPAS 2025¹**

**TRAVEL BOOK COMPETITION
AUTHOR SUMMARY**

Lazarillo de Tormes

(1554)

"The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes" is one of the most important works of Spanish literature, which marked the beginning of a new literary genre—the picaresque novel—highly influential during the Spanish Golden Age.

Its main character, Lázaro, is a young man from a lower-class background: the antithesis of the noble knight from the period. The work recounts Lázaro's adventures, with a sense of humour and a critical perspective, in a country full of beggars, work-shy knights, and young people trying to stave off hunger. For the first time in literature, a character describes his life in the first person, and the protagonist is not a soldier or a knight, but a boy of about twelve or fourteen years old who narrates his tale and struggle for survival during that time.

In 1559, given the work's criticism of the clergy and nobility, the Spanish Inquisition included it in the list of "Forbidden Books", although it continued to be published in other countries, such as Italy, Portugal, and France. Owing to these copies, the complete text has been preserved.

As a humorous work, several adaptations for children were produced in the 20th century.

Its authorship remains a mystery to this day. Over the years, authorship is attributed to Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, Juan de Valdés, and even to Fernando de Rojas.

Source: [Instituto Cervantes](#)

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