

“On Childhood and Education”, Radio Broadcasting Exhibition, June 1, 2018, Fine Art Talk Shaw, Radio Romania Cultural, with Liliana Basarab, Irina Botea-Bucan and John Dean, Delia Popa, Elena Vladareanu, curated by Daria Ghiu

"The Alphabet or a Short History of What I Learned Up To Age 9" by Delia Popa (re-written from a 2006 text) read by the author and broadcasted in the show. It talks about the experiences and perception of a 9 year old girl in the months before the Romanian Revolution of 1989.

A for Alba

Alba is the name of my mum. Alba means sunrise in Italian, but we are Romanian and our great-great-great-grandparents were from Rome. They had to leave their beautiful country to marry the ugly dacians, which were then killed as a punishment for their ugliness. Only beautiful babies who looked like the Romans were left to live. My dad told me that Trajan himself came to the country to marry a princess, but she did not want him, so she became an old lady called Baba Dochia. My mother married Dad when they were both very young and beautiful. They are very happy together. My mom was sad when she was young, so she married Daddy to make her cheerful.

B for Baby

I was born on February 27, 1980, and I am 9 years and 7 months old. My mom told me she had to stay in bed before I was born. When I was born they cut a cap on her stomach and I got out of there. Sometimes I think I came out of my dad because he says "dad's girl". My sister is not Dad's daughter, only me. I love daddy a lot.

C for Covrigi

Every day when we go to school we eat pretzels. They are round and large and some have salt and some have poppy. I like those with poppy. Granny takes us from school and we buy pretzels on the way back. Sometimes we go to her home and she gives us colorful candy. Sometimes they stick to my fingers because they're sticky. Her courtyard is very narrow, and you have to be very careful not to step on dog poop. Mostly at granny's I like the chestnuts. In the autumn there are many chestnuts on the ground and we have to collect them for school. Medication is made from chestnuts and pigs.

D for Dorlin

Dorlin and Liviu are our friends and we have been playing with them since we were born. They live in the block and at first lived in Pantelimon in another block. Dorlin's dolls are prettier than ours. She has a monchichi-he and a monchichi-she and a Spanish doll with a long dress and a fan. Someone brought her that from Spain! And Dad was in other countries too, but he did not go to

Spain, only in the Soviet Union and brought us two pink plastic camels and a game with Masha and Dasha. This is my favorite game. Masha and Dasha are two Russian girls who have a cardboard house, a dog and a cat. And they are made of paper and have many dresses you can dress them in.

G for Grandfather

My mother's father died when my mother was 16 years old and my mother's mother died when my mother ... I forgot. My mother's father was a poet, he wrote very beautiful poems about love and sand and stars. But the comrade did not like having a bookstore where he was making books and giving it to the people for free, so he sent him to a place to work with gas and oil. My mother's father was far from home and could not make books in his bookstore. And one day he went fishing and got an insect and died. He died later but got the insect from fishing.

Mom's mother was a teacher and taught people how to be good at chemistry. They lived in a big house with a yard and a dog and even had a chimney. And the house had a ground floor and a floor, but it was not in Bucharest, it was in Targoviste. I've never been there, Mom did not go. My mom told me that someday they had to give their home to some friends or people, but I don't know where they went after that. Maybe they moved to the garden with the dog.

F for Flori

Flori is my aunt on my father's side. She's 7 years younger, but you can't tell anymore. And she's tall, but Dad is the tallest man. Ilina, my sister, when she was at the dentist, the dentist told her not to be afraid because her father is big as a mountain. And Flori's husband comes from the countryside too.

M for Mamaia

My mom told me that Mamaia is not our real grandmother, they found her in the newspaper. Mamaia keeps telling us the story of when she came to us and Ilina started looking through her bag. My mom told her to stop, but Mamaia said, "Do not worry Mrs. Popa, she's a kid, and all kids do that." Mamaia feeds me soup with a spoon in my mouth, although I'm in the second class. My mother says I'm spoiled.

R for Romania

We live in a beautiful country. It also has mountains and rivers and lakes and the Black Sea and the Danube-Black Sea Channel, built by the Comrade for us all. The comrad teacher taught us that the Socialist Republic of Romania has the shape of a bouquet of flowers. Our ancestors always defended their country and were the most powerful soldiers. That is why our homeland is the first.

<https://www.mixcloud.com/daria-ghiu/arte-frumoase-la-radio-romania-cultural-2-iunie-2018-despre-copilărie-educăție/>