

Another Amazon

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The Brothers (Dois Irmãos), written by the Amazonian novelist Milton Hatoum, tells of the conflicts between two deeply different twin brothers in a family of Lebanese immigrants to the Brazilian city of Manaus. A dramatic portrait of a region that is routinely defined in biological, economic, and ethnographic terms, the story happens in a growing metropolis which has ties with both the surrounding river and forest.

There are, to be sure, plenty of other realistic fictions about the Amazon. Hatoum's novel is, however, quite different from these other works in a number of ways. First, the book is one of a very small number of works by authors born in the Amazon that have obtained national and international recognition. The only real comparison in this regard is the work of Márcio Souza, also from Manaus, author of *Mad Maria*. Then too, in its focus not upon the forest but on the city, the novel stands apart from the great majority of other literary portraits of the region.

In this novel Manaus is not shown as a remote jungle village, but as a today's industrial metropolis of 1.5 million persons. Although indigenous people do appear in its pages, they live together with recent arriving immigrants from various other corners of the world. The central place of Manaus in the novel effectively emphasizes the urban reality of today's Amazon—a region of some 23 million people, over half of whom now live in big and little cities.

Disponível em: <<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/eh/10.4/forum.html>> (Adapted)
Acesso em: 15 jun. 2006.

Questão 11

Select the CORRECT proposition(s) according to the information in the text.

- 01. Some of the characters in the novel are indigenous people.
- 02. The story focuses on the biological aspects of the Amazon.
- 04. The city described in the novel is different from the reality.
- 08. Milton Hatoum belongs to a family of Lebanese writers.
- 16. The novel's immigrants come from many different countries.
- 32. Approximately twenty-three million people live in the Amazon today.

Comentário:

01. Correta – O autor do texto utiliza o verbo auxiliar “do” para enfatizar o verbo principal.

... indigenous people do appear in its pages...

16. Correta – Os verbos “To come” e “to arrive” foram usados como sinônimos.

...arriving immigrants from various other corners of the world...

32. Correta – O autor apenas escreve por extenso 23 (twenty-three)

...Amazon - a region of some 23 million people.

Apenas comparando as frases da questão com o texto poderíamos responder estas alternativas. Confira as frases destacadas em vermelho no texto.

Questão 12

According to the text, select the **CORRECT** answer(s) to the following question:

Why is the novel *Two Brothers* different from other realistic fictions about the Amazon?

- 01. Its author writes about national and international themes.
- 02. In the novel, more attention is given to the city than to the forest.
- 04. It's a successful novel whose author is a native of the Amazon.
- 08. The story is similar to Márcio Souza's *Mad Maria*.
- 16. The book is special because there aren't many fictional works about the Amazon.
- 32. It's much better than the other literary portraits of the region.

Comentário:

02. Correta. Observe a frase retirada do texto:
...in its focus not upon the forest but on the city.
Focus = attention

04. Correta. Já na primeira frase temos o comentário:
...written by the Amazonian novelist Milton Hatoum.
Native of the Amazon = Amazonian

Está aí a famosa pergunta para marcarmos as respostas. Procure os destaques em rosa no texto e note que os sinônimos utilizados foram bem simples.

Questão 13

According to the text, select the proposition(s) in which all the expressions are related to **Manaus**.

- 01. surrounded by the forest – big population – urban development
- 02. metropolitan area – Lebanese families – half of the Amazon's population
- 04. far from the jungle – developed by indigenous people – successful city
- 08. environmental facts – indians and immigrants – jungle reality
- 16. Lebanese immigrants – large busy city – connected to the river

Comentário:

01. Correta. As informações destacadas justificam a alternativa.
...the surrounding river and forest.
...metropolis of 1.5 million persons.
...emphasizes the urban reality.

16. Correta.
...in a family of Lebanese immigrants to the Brazilian city of Manaus.
...in a growing metropolis...
...the surrounding river...

Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (1839-1908)

Machado de Assis was born in Rio de Janeiro, **the son of a house painter and a Portuguese woman.** Machado received **little formal education.** He learned French from a neighboring baker. Machado worked as a printer's apprentice at the National Press, and later he was a salesman and a proof-reader in a bookshop. During these years he started to write stories, poems, and novels. He began to gain fame as a poet in his mid-twenties, and by the late 1860s he had become a successful Brazilian man of letters.



He is widely **regarded as Brazil's greatest novelist.** Machado wrote **nine novels, eight short-story collections, four volumes of poetry,** 13 plays, and **numerous critical essays.** He often satirized middle-class values and behavior. Machado de Assis was an astute observer of the human mind **and he revealed its dark sides.** He shared with many authors of his period a reformist concern, but **his view was colored with irony** and skepticism.

His most famous novel, *Dom Casmurro*, is marvelously humorous, and sinister. **Machado creates provoking unresolvable doubts in the reader's mind.** It's no wonder that he is considered Brazil's greatest novelist **and Capitu his most fascinating heroine; like the Mona Lisa,** much lies hidden behind a superb portrait. If you've never heard of Machado de Assis, do yourself a favor and seek him out. He's well worth the effort.

Disponível em: <<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/machado.htm>> (Adapted)
<http://www.brothersjudd.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/reviews.detail/book_id/266/Dom%20Casmurro.htm> (Adapted)
Acesso em: 15 jun. 2006.

Questão 14

Select the proposition(s) in which both statements are **CORRECT**, according to the text.

01. Machado didn't stay very long at school.

Machado differed from the other authors of his time by his critical sense of humor.

02. Machado's first occupation was in a bookshop.

Machado's texts instigate the readers and it is not surprising that they are considered great.

04. Machado had a critical attitude and his writings revealed that.

The novelist's mother was not born in Brazil.

08. Machado became a recognized author in the second half of the 19th century.

Machado became a recognized poet when he was 20 years old.

Comentário:

01. Correta.

...little formal education.

Little education = not very long at school.

...his view was colored with irony.

Irony = sense of humor

04. Correta.

...numerous critical essays... and he revealed its...

...the son of a Portuguese woman.

Filho de uma Portuguesa = A mãe do romancista não nasceu no Brasil.

Questão 15

Select the proposition(s) that is (are) **CORRECT**, according to the text.

01. Capitu is more fascinating than Mona Lisa.

02. Machado is considered the best Brazilian writer of novels.

04. Machado wrote fewer plays than novels.

08. Dom Casmurro is Machado's most humorous novel.

16. Machado wrote more short-stories and poems than novels.

32. There are many lies behind the Mona Lisa's portrait.

64. Both Capitu and Mona Lisa are mysterious characters.

Comentário:

02. Correta.

... regarded as Brazil's greatest novelist.

Novelist = writer of novels

To consider = To regard

16. Correta.

9 novels

8 short-story + 4 volumes of poetry

A alternativa diz que Machado escreveu mais contos e poemas do que romances. Não fica claro na alternativa a soma 8 + 4 (8 contos + 4 volumes de poesia); isso poderia causar dúvidas.

64. Correta. Esta é até esse momento a alternativa mais complexa da prova. O vocabulário envolvido não é tão simples quanto as outras alternativas. Confira:

...and Capitu his most fascinating heroine; like the Mona Lisa... lies hidden behind a superb portrait.

...e Capitu sua mais fascinante heroína; como Mona Lisa... esconde-se atrás de um magnífico retrato. Ou seja: esconde-se = mistério = misteriosa = disfarce

Questão 16

The following are comments about Machado and his literature. Select the proposition(s) in which both (a) and (b) can **MEANINGFULLY COMPLETE** the beginning of the sentence.

01. Machado offers the pleasures of a 19th-century writer

(a) who is more modern than some of our so-called moderns.

(b) and ranks high among the most appealing writers in the world.

02. Machado de Assis is Brazil's greatest novelist,

(a) and ranks high among the most appealing writers in the world.

(b) one of the most distinctive novels of the turn of the century.

04. Like Mozart in music, Machado was able to achieve
(a) who is more modern than some of our so-called moderns.
(b) great effects with the minimum of resources.

08. It took many years for the critics and the public to recognize *Dom Casmurro* as

- (a) what today almost every critic considers to be Assis's masterpiece.
(b) one of the most distinctive novels of the turn of the century.

Adapted from: <<http://www.powells.com/biblio?isbn=0195103092>>
Acesso em: 15 jun. 2006.

Comentário:

De acordo com as idéias sobre Machado de Assis, apenas os itens 01 e 08 concordam com o início da frase. O item 02b chama Machado de romance; ele é o escritor dos romances. O item 04a fica sem sentido ao juntarmos o verbo com o pronome relativo. “Machado foi capaz de alcançar que é mais moderno...”

The Da Vinci Code – from book to film

The Da Vinci Code reached number one in the *New York Times Best Seller* list the week it was published in 2003, and has sold over 40 million copies worldwide.

The author, Dan Brown, recently won a court case in which he was accused of plagiarism. Two historians, Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, accused Brown of using ideas from their 1982 book, *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*. In fact, this is the second time Brown has been accused of plagiarism: he won a similar battle against the American Lewis Perdue, author of the 1983 novel, *The Da Vinci Legacy*.

The controversy has increased sales of all the books involved, and has provided excellent publicity for the film version of *The Da Vinci Code*, an intriguing thriller combining religious symbolism, murder and secret societies.



From: **SPEAK UP**. São Paulo. Editora Peixes, nº 230, p. 6-7. Jul. 2006. (Adapted)

Questão 17

Select the question(s) that **CAN BE ANSWERED** according to the information in the text.

01. Where are the three accusers from?
02. Who did Brown accuse of plagiarism?
04. How many times has Brown been accused of illegal copying?
08. When was Brown accused by Perdue?
16. How many copies of the book have been bought?
32. What type of movie is *The Da Vinci Code*?

Comentário:

04. Correta.

...this is the second time Brown has been accused of plagiarism.

Plagiarism = illegal copying

16. Correta.

...and has sold over 40 million copies = vendeu mais de 40 milhões

How many copies of the book have been bought? = Quantas cópias foram compradas ?

Um simples jogo entre To buy e To sell (comprar e vender)

32. Correta.

...the film version of *The Da Vinci Code*, an intriguing thriller combining religious symbolism, murder and secret societies.

Segundo o texto o filme é uma intrigante combinação de religião, assassinatos e sociedades secretas.

Questão 18

Select the proposition(s) that can **MEANINGFULLY COMPLETE** the last paragraph of the text.

01. The publisher of both books said they will lose the case.

02. The film was shown at this year's Cannes Festival, where it received its international release.

04. Previous books have explored the theme of the holy union of Mary Magdalene and Jesus.

08. The director Ron Howard worked with Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou in this celebrated production.

16. His wife carries out research for him, suggests ideas and reads his first drafts.

Comentário:

O último parágrafo do texto fala sobre o filme. Se simplesmente partirmos dessa idéia, apenas os itens 02 e 08 falam sobre o filme; os outros são livros, livros e a ajuda da esposa lendo os rascunhos.

Before she was famous...

J K Rowling was born near Bristol in 1965. She always wanted to be a writer, and her first book was called *Rabbit*, which she wrote when she was six years old. She grew up in a town in the south-west of England, and when she left school, she went to Exeter University. After that, she moved to London and worked for Amnesty International.



She first had the idea for a Harry Potter book in 1990 when she was on a long train journey. But in the same year, she went to Oporto in Portugal and worked as an English teacher.

When she was there, she met a Portuguese journalist – they got married and had a baby. Unfortunately, the marriage wasn't a long one and she left with her baby daughter, in 1993. She came back to Britain and lived in a small flat in Edinburgh. She was unemployed and didn't have much money, but she continued writing. She also did a teaching course and then became a French teacher in a school in Edinburgh. In 1997, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published.

Rowling's first three books sold over 35 million copies in three years, and in 2001 Chris Columbus made the first Harry Potter film. J K Rowling still lives in Edinburgh.

From: *Natural English – Elementary*. Oxford: Ruth Gairns & Stuart Redman, 2006, p. 56.

Questão 19

What do the dates in the text refer to?

Select the **CORRECT** proposition(s).

- 01. 1965 – J K Rowling wrote her first book.
- 02. 2001 – Rowling's first three books were filmed.
- 04. 1993 – J K Rowling returned to Britain.
- 08. 1997 – Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* got a lot of publicity.
- 16. 1990 – J K Rowling worked as a teacher in Portugal.

Comentário:

04. Correta.

...she left with her baby daughter, in 1993. She came back to Britain...

O texto diz que o casamento não deu certo e ela voltou com a filha para "Britain in 1993"

16. Correta.

...1990 when she was on a long train journey. But in the same year, she went to Oporto in Portugal and worked as an English teacher.

As partes sublinhadas no destaque são: ...1990 – Mas no mesmo ano – em Portugal – trabalhou como professora de Inglês.

Questão 20

Select the **CORRECT** proposition(s) to complete the following sentence.

The text above gives information about J K Rowling's _____.

- 01. childhood
- 02. education
- 04. parents
- 08. present husband
- 16. hobbies
- 32. future plans
- 64. previous occupations

Comentário:

01. Correta.

...She grew up in a town in the south-west of England...

- Sobre a infância.

02. Correta.

...when she left school, she went to Exeter University.

- Sobre a educação.

64. Correta.

... and worked for Amnesty International.

- Sobre a ocupação anterior.

Comentário Geral

A prova de Inglês da Ufsc 2007 não surpreendeu. Estávamos realmente esperando uma prova de interpretação de textos – baseada em sinônimos (dizer a mesma coisa de maneira diferente).

Um único fator aumentou a dificuldade da prova: estava bem extensa. Nos últimos anos tivemos dois textos por prova e nessa o número dobrou. A comparação entre as frases foi um ponto positivo – em alguns casos você conseguia responder sem nem mesmo entender o que dizia a frase.

Espero que todos tenham feito um bom trabalho!

Celinho