

Ana María Matute discusses her Life and 'Worlds of Fiction'



19.10.2011 **Teaching centres** - On 24 October at noon writer Ana María Matute will offer a conference on her 'Life and Worlds of Fiction' at the auditorium of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts. Matute will be conversing with the organisers of the event Maria Paz Ortuño and Fernando Valls, both lecturers of the Department of Spanish.

Matute (Barcelona, 1925), member of the Spanish Royal Academy and winner of Miguel de Cervantes Prize 2010, is one of the most acclaimed contemporary novelists of Spain.

A precocious writer who completed her first novel at the age of 17, she debuted on the Spanish literary scene with *Los Abel* (1948), a novel reflecting the atmosphere in Spain immediately after the Civil War, which is a theme that comes up in many of her later works. Her novels include *Primera memoria* (1960), *Los soldados lloran de noche* (1964), *La trampa* (1969), *La torre vigía* (1971) and, after many years of silence, she wrote *Olvidado Rey Gudú* (1996) and *Aranmanoth* (2000). Her latest published work is *Paraíso inhabitado* (2010).

She has also written short stories such as *El tiempo* (1957), *Historias de la Artámila* (1961) and *Algunos muchachos* (1964) as well as two autobiographical books, *A la mitad del camino* (1961) and *El río* (1963). She has also published several books of children's literature such as *Los niños tontos* (1956), *Caballito loco y Carnavalito* (1962), *Tres y un sueño* (1961), *Sólo un pie descalzo* (1983) and *Paulina, el mundo y las estrellas* (1960).

Matute has strong ties with the United States and was invited as visiting professor to the universities of Oklahoma, Indiana and Virginia. She has received several awards including the Nadal Prize, the Planeta Prize, the Café Gijón Prize and the National Children's and Youth Literature Prize. In 1996 Ana María Matute became the third woman to be elected as a member of the royal Spanish Academy (RAE). She is also honorary member of the Hispanic Society of America. A literary award has been created bearing her name and her works have been translated to 23 languages. In 2007 she was awarded the National Prize for Spanish Literature for her lifetime's work. In November 2010 she was awarded the Miguel Cervantes Prize, the most prestigious literary prize of the Spanish language.