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| **Vidas secas [Barren Lives] (1963)** |
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| One of the most important films of Brazil’s *Cinema Nôvo* movement, *Vidas secas* was directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos, and based on the 1938 novel of the same name written by Graciliano Ramos. It tells the story of a poverty-stricken family in the *sertão*—the dry Brazilian northeast lands—in the 1940s. Shot in a modernist style reminiscent of Italian neorealist film, *Vidas secas* is characterised by telling compositions, subjective shots, atomised, overexposed lighting and sparse dialogue. |
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| Further reading:  (Bernadet)  (Johnson and Stam)  (Johnson and Stam, Nelson Pereira dos Santos Vidas Secas)  (Johnson, Cinema Novo X5, Masters of Contemporary Brazilian Film)  (Price)  (Ramos)  (Rocha)  (Rocha, Revolução do Cinema Novo)  (Salem)  (Santos) |