

FICHE ACTION

ODDITL25_PENELOPE and the charm of ripe women (9th c. B.C.)

Participants: 22 Italian students

Date: 17/052021 **Place:** Cerignola, Italy

Aims and skills targeted:

- Learn to grasp the features of a literary character by identifying and interpreting information contained in the text
- Reflection on the social role of the woman in ancient and modern culture and reflection on the theme of gender equality
- Knowing how to select and use sources
- Become aware of the duration of a literary text and its infinitive potential to rewrite and to re-interpret
- Knowing how to derive a new text through forms of creative and collaborative writing
- Experience the pleasure of the writing and manipulating literary texts
- Knowing how to combine music with a poetic text of personal creation
- Knowing how to decipher different languages (texts, images, music)
- To grasp the sense of unity of knowledge and of interconnection between humanistic and scientific disciplines

Description:

the reflection on the figure of Penelope took place in connection with transdisciplinary curricula teaching activities on the theme of gender equality in today's world. The starting point of the work consisted in knowing the characteristics of the figure within the Homeric poem and in the framework of social role that ancient culture assigned to woman. However the students' attention was also focused on the elements that make Penelope's figure "special" compared to the female cliché of the time : for example, the cunning in keeping suitors watching over , which makes her the female equivalent of the cunning in Ulysses. The next step was to verify both the fewer variants of the myth (which depict a very different character compared to the Homeric one) and some modern reinterpretations, both in the literary and artistic fields. In this way, the students have grasped the intertextual nature of the texts , both literary and iconic, and that the artistic product has its roots in a diachronic dialogue (which is sometimes a clash) with the tradition and lays the foundations for future developments. Subsequently, they engaged themselves in a work of reinterpretation of the character of a simple digital art product and through the creation of some short stories. In this way they compared the ancient and the modern woman, reflecting on the theme of gender equality. But above all, they have learned to cooperate with each other to realize a product and have experienced the pleasure of the creative writing, transforming themselves from authors to readers, playing to manipulate and re-write a model text. Enhancing the personal skills of the students, a piece of music was also created and performed. Finally, starting from some modern technological innovations related to the topical object Penelope is connected to, the loom, they have set a path embracing music, mathematics and computer science.

Results:

The students, through web research and the creation of PowerPoint presentations, videos, images, music files and narrative texts, managed to achieve the objectives required in this work:

1. Knowledge and studying of a famous character in world literature;
2. Achievement of interpretation tools;
3. Comprehension of the nature of a literary and artistic text;
4. Production of creative products;
5. Reflection on current social issues.

