

**Istituto Comprensivo Cardinal Agostino Casaroli
Castel San Giovanni
(Piacenza) - ITALY**



**THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO
by Carlo Collodi**

**Cross-curricular project carried out by class IV C
Primary School
Teacher: Agnese Bollani
School year: 2009-2010**

The story of the puppet Pinocchio has been revisited with a special focus on the issue of “safety”, which is the main theme of the LLP European Project the school is currently involved in. The main aspect related to 'safety' at play here is the achievement of personal autonomy to feel good with oneself and live well with the others.

This project was carried out during school year 2009-2010 by class IV C of Primary School 'Card. Agostino Casaroli' of Castel San Giovanni (Piacenza). The class was composed of 22 students (9 boys and 13 girls, 2 students with special needs) of mixed nationalities: 11 Italians, 4 Albanians, 2 Moroccans, 2 Indians, 1 Mauritian, 1 Chinese, and 1 Philippino girl who didn't speak any Italian at all when she arrived at the beginning of the year, and to whom working on this project represented a great opportunity for integrating with the class. The class worked on the project about two hours a week and 'The Adventures of Pinocchio' was finally presented to the school Finnish partners on the occasion of the middle school class exchanges in May 2010. The same presentation was then repeated in May 2011, when the students were attending grade 5.

The project has offered a lot of communicative and linguistic stimuli, and has allowed both students and teachers to explore many cross-curricular and multi-cultural issues. This is also because fairy tales from different parts of the world are always presented within a specific historical and geographical context and thus offer different perspectives on the main themes of life.

The tale of Pinocchio was first narrated, then discussed orally, and after that graphically revisited. Each child has made his/her booklet, feeling free to give prominence to the most important and emotionally significant elements in the tale.

All drawings have been completed with balloons, to “capture” the children's thoughts, and with captions, to describe the simple educational pathway, which was meant to be rational and emotional at the same time. All this has proved to be a lighthearted by very important way to share and face – in our limited context – the big problems of life, diversity, and awareness.

Bearing all this in mind, by choosing some of the most significant episodes of the tale, the teacher has paid special attention to the development of the children's self-confidence and awareness, expressed especially in the ability to ask questions and reflect on life and on the way of the world, so as to help them to be better equipped to face their future experiences.

PINOCCHIO

“The Adventures of Pinocchio”, published in 1883, is a mixture of real and imaginary elements. It has always caught the children's attention and it is still very suitable for the needs of today's children.

In the course of this project the teacher has read the original text using a multi-modal approach. Difficult words and old sayings have been explained by means of pictures and common metaphors, so as to facilitate comprehension and stimulate creativity, for example with the use of miming or drama techniques. This has helped the shyest students to participate in the activities and has also favoured the link with everyday life and experiences.

The children have been guided to reflect on the various characters' personality and psychological traits. They have been encouraged to find both positive and negative traits for each of the characters, which has helped them to think autonomously and feel comfortable with contributing to the discussion without being afraid of saying something wrong.

With the help of their teachers, the students have chosen the most prominent scenes and rendered them in English. They have then prepared drawings to illustrate them and added their thoughts. Everybody now has their booklet and multimedial copy!