PASSEGGIATE SHAKESPEARIANE
area didattica
civico
orto
botanico
trieste

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more...........
And be you blithe and bonny.
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into Hey, nonny, nonny.

William Shakespeare, ***Much Ado about Nothing***, Act 2, Sc. 3
The Shakespearean vision on women. An extraordinary gallery of distinct characters and complex womanliness

Learners
Last grades of High school, adult learning programmes

Subjects
English, Art, ICT

Objectives
-to explore the women's world in Shakespeare's plays
-to examine some of them from a selection of distinct female characters
-to define their role, relationship with other characters and their contribution to the story
-to give account of how the author has used words, images, actions to make them alive,
consistent and psychologically remarkable in their roles
-to use English to communicate
-to observe and analyse a work of art
-to use technology responsibly and appropriately
-to engage subjects in interactive activities

Competences
-to achieve a positive attitude towards literary contexts and use of language
-to research, deepen and understand the passages relevant for the project
-to enhance critical thinking, reflection and creativity
-to develop an interest towards culture, inclusion, sharing
-to use English and other specific languages appropriately

Tools and materials
Printed and online texts, technological devices and programmes

Duration
About two/three months according to the amount of material researched and examined

Development
To provide a brainstorming session among teachers to make out tasks, activities, time schedule, etc.

To describe the finalities of the project to the class with related specific information

To elicit some background knowledge from the students on some aspects of the research, and raise interest in the project

To visit the Botanical Garden to enter the atmosphere of the Shakespearean world through the view of and contact with some of the plants mentioned in his works and the reading of the accompanying lines

To start a research of the female figures as they appear in some of his most famous plays

To concentrate on some of them and read a number of significant passages to get a detailed picture of their role and personality

To create digital word-clouds describing each character after getting useful elements for their description. The clouds will report words relevant from both the intellectual/ psychological and physical view, either described by the author or inferred/imagined through the accurate reading

To identify the dramatic and human traits of the characters and highlight Shakespeare's mastery in bringing out their psychology

To answer the questions: Why are Shakespearean characters defined as round characters? What about women? Class debate on the literary and technical devices used by the playwright to achieve insight and create unforgettable personalities

To prepare a group-presentation to the class based on the researches and the material produced

To create other digital clouds with words pointing out the main literary, imagery details showing Shakespeare's artistry in describing the female characters taken into account

To write an essay about the lady-characters studied and analysed to give a full, round portrait of them in light of Shakespeare's technique and human insight

To research and analyse painting works related to the female characters studied and comment on the painters' personal views about the Shakespearean women portrayed

To zoom in and find coincidences, differences and analogies between the painters' interpretation and Shakespeare's representation

To give a written account with personal comments about the outcomes of such analysis and comparison from an artistic perspective

To provide a complete collection of all the materials found and developed and transfer it to an e-book to be uploaded on the school website

Optional 1: provide a comparison with some other fictional heroines from Austen, Bronte, Woolf, Morrison, Allende, etc.

Optional 2: careful reading of 'Shakespeare's Sister' from *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf and deep reflection on how unjust life (men's world) can be towards women by denying opportunities and consideration once and nowadays

Products

An artistic exhibition (paintings, posters) of the clouds created online employing attractive, strikingly coloured graphic devices

An e-book, **Shakespeare's Ladies,** with a gallery of the female figures taken into account in the students' studies, essays and reports accompanied by images of each painting analysed.

An additional e-book considering the options above: *Women Worlds*

An accurate bibliography and a presentation from the teachers of each subject concerned with an account of the motivations and of the methodological pathways exploited

Evaluation and validation

See introduction