

*..I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
But not such roses see I in her cheeks*

William Shakespeare, **Sonnet CXXX**

In William Shakespeare's vision Art and Nature are not just related but ONE thing altogether

Learners

Pupils of the Middle school

Subjects

English, Art, Natural Sciences/Botany, ICT, Italian where necessary,

Premise

Knowing Shakespeare through some of his famous lines where nature, poetry and theatrical craftsmanship combine

An interview to William Shakespeare, the playwright, poet and botanist

Pupils of the Middle school

Objectives

The methodology is based on:

- a fair presentation and research to supply some information about William Shakespeare, his theatre and poetry in general and, in particular, the presence of nature in his works
 - a simple interview to William Shakespeare, adjusted to the level of the students, requiring the use of the WH words and past tense
 - one or more visits to the Botanical garden with a close observation of the plants, flowers, trees making up the Shakespearean pathways
 - a research to find data and information about the plants observed
 - proper use of the English language to build simple sentences or paragraphs
- to promote:
- ability to observe, reading, listening, writing, communicating
 - the use of the English language for a purpose



- the appropriate use of digital devices
- to be aware of the cultural resources offered by the Botanical garden and its Shakespearean pathways
- to exploit the opportunity to learn about Shakespeare and some of the plants cited in his works and widen one's cultural and scientific horizons
- to enhance creativity by combining paintings, drawings, etc. with other artistic elements
- to engage subjects' interaction and favour inclusion

Competences

- learning to learn, improving cultural awareness, attention and consideration for other cultures
- sense of inclusiveness, spirit of observation, collaboration, exchange
- being able to complete a task following the guidelines given
- use of English in different situations
- being able to select, organize, create
- developing critical thinking skills

Tools and materials

Computer, school materials, photo camera

Duration

About one/ two months

Development

- teachers' session to define interventions, tasks, activities, time schedule, etc.
- explanation in Italian on how the project will be carried out after eliciting some information about Shakespeare and guiding the students towards the object of the project
- (soft) explanation in Italian and English with clear examples, by means of texts, paintings and videos, about Shakespeare's use of imagery based on the natural world
- tutored research online to get information useful for the interviews about Shakespeare the poet, the playwright, the botanist. Selection of the material
- virtual tour to Shakespeare's New Place to see his house and garden
- one or more visits to the Botanical garden with a close observation of the plants, flowers, trees making up the Shakespearean pathways
- taking pictures, drawing sketches of some of the plants. Plan sensorial activities to stimulate the pupils' senses and raise their level of participation



- oral exercises based on questions, simple, effective realia, simplified extracts from texts
- imaginary interview to William Shakespeare, adjusted to the level of the students, based on a basic outline of the information got from the research online and the visit to the Botanical Garden; use of the WH words and the past tense. The interview can be carried out by groups of students, it must contain about 12 or more questions, and answers, referring to the three qualities of Shakespeare mentioned in the premise
- Natural sciences: investigation to get some scientific information about some of the plants seen in the garden and their categorization using tables and colours to visually distinguish them
- implementation of the pictures and finishing touch of the drawings
- collection of photos, drawings, paintings, etc. with captions of the pupils and creation of an imaginary garden
- writing a paragraph to describe and evaluate the Shakespearean experience from the students' viewpoint
- creation of a fanzine with a title, the interviews, the paragraphs, drawings, photos, pictures and the scientific tables with explanations

Products

An online fanzine complete with all the materials assembled during the development of the project called *I love Shakespeare in the Garden*

A bibliography and a presentation from the teachers of each subject concerned with an account of the motivations and of the methodological pathways exploited will complete the production

Evaluation and validation

See introduction