

*When I consider everything that grows
Holds in perfection but a little moment...*

William Shakespeare, **Sonnet XV**, lines 1- 2

Nature and Poetry are William Shakespeare's measure, and the Garden reflects this authentic dimension

Premise

The project follows three distinct paths:

1. it takes its starts from Shakespeare' sonnets, in particular the ones where plants and flowers are mentioned, to explore the author's use of natural elements to create a connection between nature and human life
2. it explores the Botanical Garden of Trieste to know about its history, management, organization, cultivations, creation of the Shakespearean pathways, etc.
3. it throws a glance at some of the most important Shakespearean gardens around the world witnessing the 'Botanical side of William Shakespeare'

Learners

High school students, adult educational programmes

Subjects

English, Sciences, ICT

Objectives

To learn and analyse some sonnets by William Shakespeare including the ones cited along the Sonnets' Pathway of the Botanical garden

To comment on the relationship between Art /Poetry and Nature in Shakespeare's poems

To use the English language to communicate

To get to know some important facts about the Botanical Garden of Trieste and other garden in the world

To become acquainted and learn about some species present in the Garden of Trieste

To use sources and resources adequately

To favour interaction among subjects and inclusion



Competences

Ability to use sources and resources correctly and responsibly

To understand and be aware of the content and reach of the studies and research

To use the English language in all its forms

To get a straightforward understanding of the scientific/botanical aspects of the garden, its history and the way it is organized

To use information and data to enhance critical thinking

Tools and materials

Printed and online texts and documents, technological devices

Duration

About two months

Development

Brainstorming meeting of the teachers involved to prepare a schedule with tasks, times, etc.

Explanation of the project to the students with details about its development, activities and targets

Warm up to elicit information from the students about poetical forms and the sonnet in detail

Focus on the origin of the sonnet form and its fame and development in England (Italian and English sonnet)

Shakespeare's collection of sonnets: characteristics, themes/topics, inspiration, etc. (research on texts and online)

Reading, analysis and understanding of a selection of Shakespeare's sonnets starting from *Sonnet 15* and including the ones cited in the correlated Shakespearean Pathway of the Garden after a preliminary visit

Written comment or essay on the main topics inherent in the poems with particular reference to the links between Poetry and Nature and how this union adds up to their meaning

Visit (possibly more than one) to the Botanical Garden to

1. explore the Shakespearean Pathways and take note of their peculiarities as regards both Shakespeare's works and the plants concerned
2. have a meeting/interview with the curators or the director of the garden to get information about plants, organization, management, history of the Garden, etc. on the basis of a specifically prepared questionnaire to be filled out

Reporting information and data about the garden on a written account *The Garden and its story* subdivided into chapters with the participation of all the students divided into groups
Categorizing some of the plants following the guidelines given by the teacher of Natural Science

Making graphs and grids reporting visually and synthetically the data of the scientific tables
Presentation to the class of the outcomes produced so far about:

- 1.- Sonnet; Shakespearean sonnets; Relationship between poetry and nature
- 2.- Botanical Garden of Trieste; Shakespearean pathways; Scientific notes and details

Online research on the most famous Shakespearean gardens in the world

Downloading of images and videos related to details and info on the above topic by respecting the rules of copyright

Collecting data and presentation to the class of the info with related videos and pictures

Creating an e-book including the whole material developed in the project subdivided by subject and area of research

Products

Account *The Garden and its story*

E-book *A Sonnet Garden in Trieste*

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