EUROPEAN STORY

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Today Alone, Tomorrow in a Team



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EUROPEAN STORY

Erasmus + multihanded

Today Alone, Tomorrow in a Team!

Creative Learning for an Inclusive School

Strategic Partnerships for school education 2019-1-EE01-KA229-051587_3

Erasmus + 2019 - 2021

This guide has been developed within the framework of the "Today alone, tomorrow in a team! Creative learning for an inclusive school" project, run under the Erasmus+ programme.

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an Erasmus+ partnership for the development of creativity and inclusion

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Erasmus+

Today alone, tomorrow in a team! Creative learning for an inclusive school,

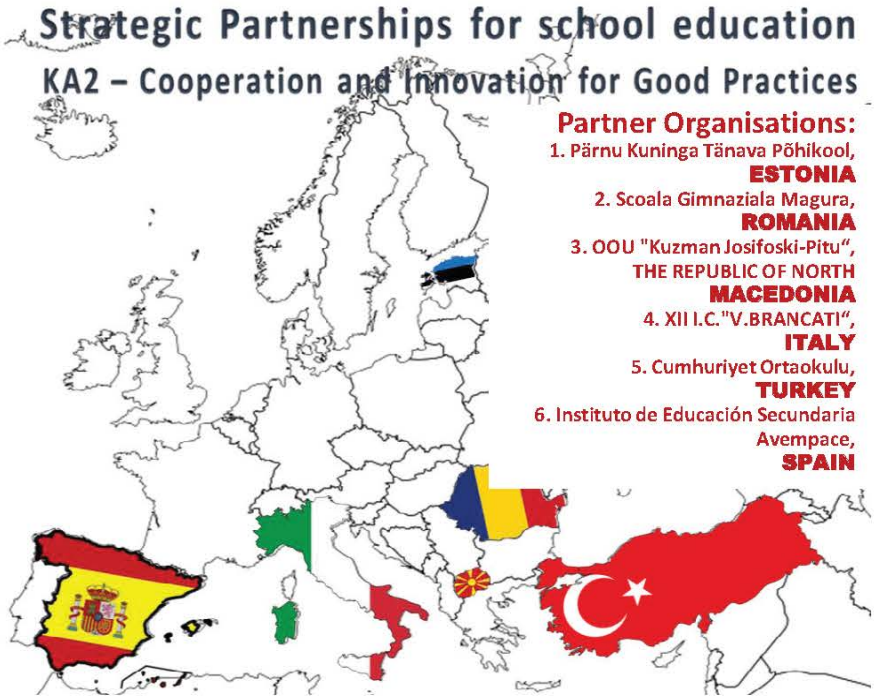
a partnership for the development of creativity and inclusion

I

The primary goal of Cooperation Partnerships is to allow organisations to increase the quality and relevance of their activities, to develop and reinforce their networks of partners, to increase their capacity to operate jointly at transnational level, boosting internationalisation of their activities and through exchanging or developing new practices and methods as well as sharing and confronting ideas. They aim to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices as well as the implementation of joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchanges of experience at European level. Results should be re-usable, transferable, up-scalable and, if possible, have a strong transdisciplinary dimension. Selected projects will be expected to share the results of their activities at local, regional, national level and transnational level.
https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/cooperation-partnerships

"The renewed education agenda encapsulated in Goal 4 is comprehensive, holistic, ambitious, aspirational and universal, and inspired by a vision of education that transforms the lives of individuals, communities and societies, leaving no one behind". (Incheon Declaration Education 2030).

Education that is not inclusive breaks the social fabric, erodes trust in schools, and wears down commitment to society. In order to be effective, inclusion must be part of a lifelong learning strategy with primary education being a critical period that has a long-lasting influence on outcomes throughout life. In doing so, we will put together students from different background to work together through activities.As schools, our mission entails not only transmitting knowledge, but also informing, educating and promoting more inclusive societies where social cohesion and skills for life are strengthened.



According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Professions Report (2018), some of the skills needed to be more advanced than robots are: complex problem solving, teamwork, emotional intelligence, decision making and reasoning, negotiation and multiple thinking , interpersonal relationships, empathy (caring for others), critical and creative thinking, resistance to environment and assertiveness.Those are the skills that this project targets.

Our main objectives are linked to the following aspects:

- Preventing the early school leaving phenomenon among students through improving and diversifying the educational offer of the partner schools;
- Improving the study results regarding the student performances by at least 15% for each organization per school year;
- Making the classrooms a friendlier place for all children to favor inclusion and determine a drop in the number of absences of about 25% for each organization per school year;
- Designing highly qualitative common products to reflect the good international cooperation intent to provide our teachers with the best pedagogical tools for the benefit of our children.

The whole school community will be involved in the project. The number of students involved in the project will vary from school to school. However, there will be at least 100 teachers and students involved in the whole project work, in some schools up to 300 (aged 10-16).We will look for the cooperation of families,local community and NGOs, as education is a matter of the whole society.

We have designed our activities based on the needs of this partnership, strategic goals we would like to improve, and priorities and topics we would like to succeed. In a way to realize it, we have divided the project implementation duration into four stages. During 'the partner tour' stage, we will introduce ourselves to one another so as to make each school internationalize and cooperate with partners.

The second stage 'school is for everybody', will make us focus on the problems we have and the solutions to overcome them in the context of this project. The third stage 'teaching in the inclusive spirit' will assist us to integrate each student in the process of learning regardless of any disadvantages they have. The last stage 'our inclusive school is open' will help us convey the experiences we will have had to organizations and people that are to benefit from them.

We will use different methods in our project in different phases: questionnaires, interviews, feedback discussions and written reflections, also blogs and video diaries of students, role plays,round table,demonstrative lectures, presentations, workshops, lectures, on line meetings etc.

Students after this project will be more effective and proficient in communication, both in English and digitally, more skilled in gathering and interpreting data after having prepared case studies, presentations, campaigns, plays, leaflets, reports, graphs, songs, project events within communities or even designed a comprehensive guide in the project areas of interest. Practical and social abilities will also be enhanced, a concrete result in pursuing the second desideratum, while working at the products in teams, assuming different roles and being involved since the designing part.

We expect the project to have a major impact primarily on our students and teaching staff, and then in the environment and course at national and European level. The materials that will emerge as products from the project will have a major impact on the environment, and the workshops and activities on the direct participants in the project .

After the end of the project, the schools continue their partnership in two ways:

1. Collaboration to build up new eTwinning projects in future
2. Exchanges of practices after the project, development of currect methodologies, carrying out new methods through different Erasmus+ programs (KA1 and KA2).

The project have several visible results:

Youtube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFYE92LMrwQ4Lam_rn5cyHg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh9PLy0Vong

Facebook page, Webpage
https://www.facebook.com/tomorrowinateam

eBook
https://issuu.com/avempace/docs/erasmus_multihanded_story

Twinspace/eTwinning
https://live.etwinning.net/projects/project/183540

MULTIHANDED STORY/ CHAIN STORYTELLING METHOD

educational tool to develop competencies to communicate, and to share personal experiences

Storytelling is a relevant educational tool to develop competencies to attribute meaning, to communicate, and to share personal experiences. It is a socio-cognitive ability that allows individuals to express their inner world and share representations, memories, and experiences with a conversational interlocutor. Storytelling involves defining individual identity and attributing meanings to experiences, which starts to develop in early childhood from symbolic play, language, and interpersonal relationships.

From the preschool stage, typically, developing children build their storytelling skills in interactions with peers and with the help of adults who encourage the production of coherent, understandable, and relevant stories to be heard. Children under three years old tell primitive stories with word concatenations without continuous action sequences or causal connections between events. From the age of three, oral narrative language begins to develop. Between three and six to seven years, there is the first stage of development of narrative cohesion, which transitions from a description of actions individually to a story that includes thematic sequences and reactions to events. From the age of seven/eight, there is a second evolutionary leap in the ability to create a story that includes problematic elements and solutions, mediated by events that facilitate or complicate the story's progression. From the age of twelve, throughout adolescence and early adulthood, a linguistic-narrative and social development is achieved. In this period, it is necessary to define personal identity, through relationships with equals, with parents, and in complex social realities such as higher education and work.



In educational contexts, storytelling encourages narrative thinking, creativity, problem-solving abilities, expressive-linguistic skills, socialization, collaboration, and inclusion of students with special-educational needs and behavioral difficulties. In teaching environments, it is becoming increasingly common for stories to be used to work on emotional and psychological contents, presenting characters who experience situations like those of the audience to promote social cognition, empathy, and coping skills.

MULTIHANDED STORY/ CHAIN STORYTELLING METHOD

educational tool to develop competencies to communicate, and to share personal experiences

Collaborative storytelling activities add interpersonal aspects to the experience and elaboration of content since there are multiple opportunities for personal expression and social interaction while working on story creation and development. Moreover, peer collaboration increases motivation, self-expression, the questioning of ideas, reflection, and elaboration of content through a common language.

Digital storytelling is a powerful educational tool that enhances the possibilities in creating shared stories and their subsequent transmission . It results from the combination of collaborative storytelling and multimedia technology. Online learning-management systems can support digital storytelling through the creation of creative and collaborative communities where students are the protagonists and where there is sharing of knowledge and narratives through collaboration. Barriers to online learning are perceived to decrease as age and experience increase. In online cooperative digital storytelling, the class can be involved in real-time interactions, showing horizontal and networking characteristics, where students are also responsible for their peers' creative collaboration skills. Online creative collaboration involves socio-cognitive skills such as communication, interaction, reflection, exploration of possible options, reliability, and mutual co-operation. In addition, real-time interaction is one of the advantages of an online-learning system for free discussion and meetings, collecting opinions, sharing, and writing documents, ideas, and evaluations.

The structure and cohesion of the stories can be a potential benefit of collaboration between students. In other words, group work may have favored creating more sophisticated stories than creating stories individually, according to what is expected for the different age groups. Collaborative work may have favored the creation of balanced stories. The need for group agreement of the final story may have influenced the decision-making process, where peer contribution acted as a mutual form of control and regulation of the declared story plots, helping group members to close previous elements opened throughout the story. The form and content of a story may change from person to person and from group to group. Still, it reflects the narrator's linguistic, symbolic, emotional, experiential, and decision-making abilities. When a collaborative group creates a story, group members need to agree on what and how to tell it. This agreement implies a process of decision-making, listening, and consensus that allows the regulation and the shared construction of the general plan of the story. When a consensus is reached, participants' contributions help to control and regulate the arguments stated throughout the story, closing elements previously opened by a groupmate. In this way, collaboration allows students to reach a higher story level than different group members could achieve alone. Students' skills can be developped through this kind of storytelling activity.

Chain storytelling or multihanded story is one of the activities of our project. Partner schools work together to make a single story. It is a writing technique that involves choosing a theme, this time inclusion being the theme, it is a team method, in which the roles are well defined.

Thus, each country will write a chapter and illustrate another chapter. The story will be started by one team and continued, in a chain, by the others, respecting the theme, the characters from the first chapter and the moments of the action.

This method of creative learning has multiple benefits. It emphasizes creativity, thought process, attention to detail, adherence to instructions, teamwork and communication skills. Also, the proposed method is a collaborative method that eliminates differences and barriers of any kind and can be used both for school teaching, counseling and guidance, but also for extracurricular activities, theater circle or other Erasmus projects that have the theme of inclusion . Because the story is in digital format, it is accessible to both students and teachers and can be used as a model of good practice in reading activities or as a case study in inclusive education activities. When making the product, several competencies and abilities acquired by students in several disciplines were combined, such as: ICT, plastic education, language and literature.

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multihanded story

III

today alone

tomorrow in a team!

Today alone, tomorrow in a team!

2020-2021

Written and illustrated by all countries participant in the Erasmus+ project:
"Today alone, tomorrow in a team! Creative lerning for an inclusive school."

2019-1-EE01-KA229-051587

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Pärnu Kuninga
Tänava Põhikool

12° ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO "BRANCATI" BELVEDERE SIRACUSA

ОУ „КУЗМАН ЈОСИФОСКИ - ПИТУ“ КИЧЕВО

ŞCOALA GIMNAZIALĂ
1838
MĂGURA - BUZĂU

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avempace

AÇIPAYAM CUMHURİYET ORTAOKULU
MEB
1931

Preface

by Ms. LIIS RAAL-VIRKS, coordinator of the project.

This book is a visible result of 6 partner schools of the Erasmus+ project "Today Alone, Tomorrow in a Team! - Creative Learning for an Inclusive School". The project´s main goals are to promote inclusion and tolerance via creative approaches and methods in the school and to prevent and reduce school bullying. The 6 schools participating in the process of creation of this authentic novel about inclusion were the following:

Scoala Gimnaziala Magura, Romania
OOU „Kuzman Josifoski-Pitu", The Republic of North Macedonia
I.C. „V. Brancati", Italy
Cumhuriyet Ortaokulu, Turkey
Instituto de Educación Secundaria Avempace, Spain
Pärnu Kuninga Tänava Põhikool, Estonia

All the 6 partner schools were equally included in the creation of the novel: the novel has 6 chapters and each chapter is written by one school and illustrated by another.
chapter 1 written by Estonia and illustrated by Turkey.
chapter 2 written by Italy and illustrated by Spain.
chapter 3 written by Macedonia and illustrated by Romania.
chapter 4 written by Romania and illustrated by Macedonia.
chapter 5 written by Spain and illustrated by Italy.
chapter 6 written by Turkey and illustrated by Estonia.

We hope that you like this book.

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Chapter 1

Written by Estonia
Illustrated by Turkey

It is summer 2019 in Europe, in Netherlands, at the countryside near Haarlem. It is a warm summer morning, a Sunday, and teenagers from all over the Europe enjoy their daily swim in a small lake in their international youth camp territory.

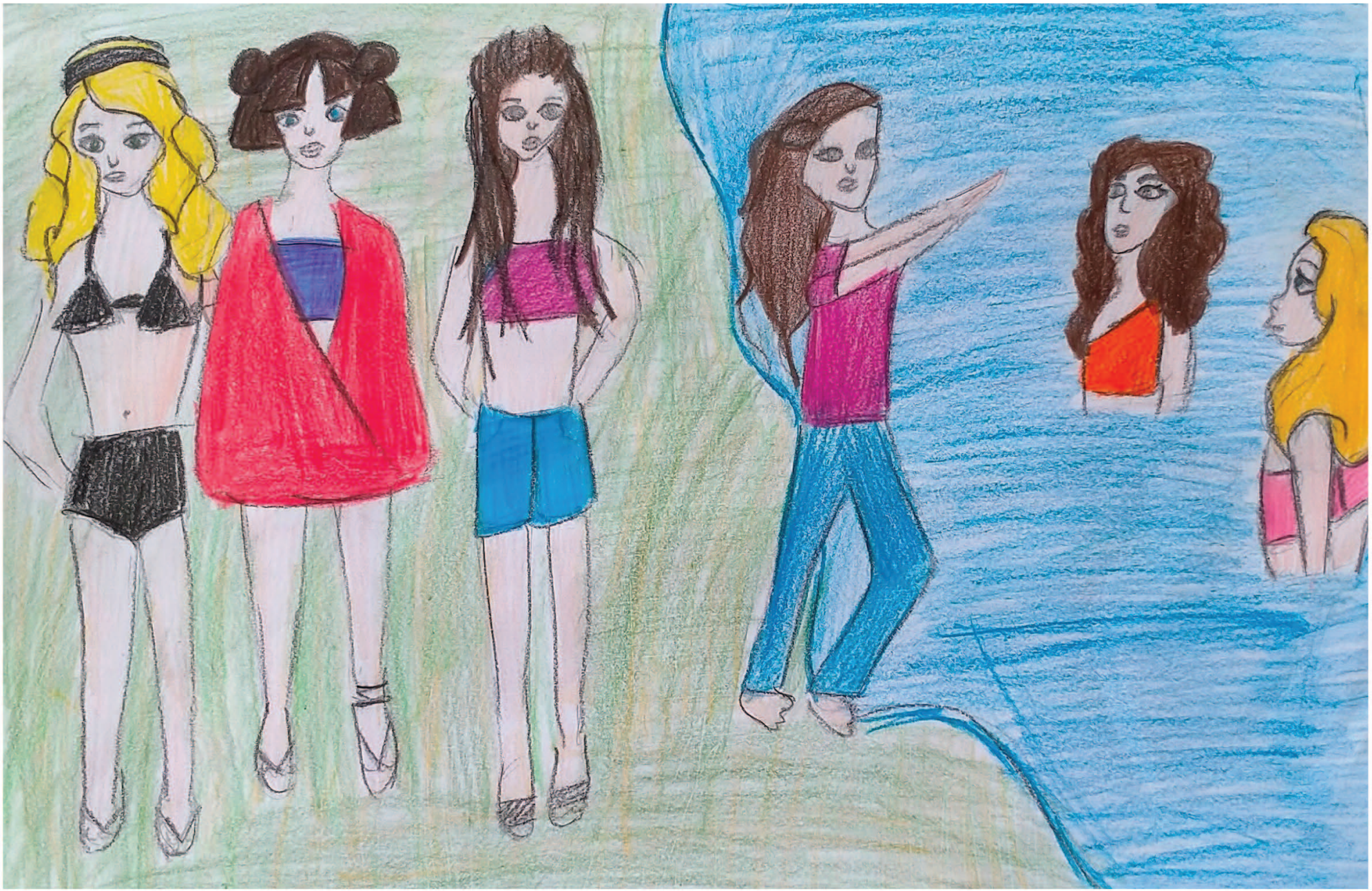
Pille, a calm and shy but smart girl from Estonia, laughs with Sonia, best student of her class in a good school in Spain. They are both 14 years old, as different as can be from the first sight – Pille is blond with blue eyes and in her character introvert and reserved; Sonia has dark brown curly hair and almost black eyes and a character of a sparkling star – always wanting and needing attention and getting it because of her unusual dressing style and particular clothes. But they both are curious and successful in their studies, also loving sport: Pille loves horses and riding; Sonia loves dancing and performing.

They share the room with Maria, a 13 year old girl from Romania. The girl is 1 year younger than them but sometimes it feels like she is much older than Pille and Sonia – she has a sarcastic and ironic sense of humour sometimes and because of that, she has not found a lot of good friends in youth camp, except Pille and Sonia who like her a lot because underneath Maria's sarcasm there is a sweet and friendly girl, a devoted new friend and brilliant companion in their everyday activities. Even now, Maria is approaching at the lake side to join 2 other friends in their relaxing swim.

Pille and Sonia are wearing regular swimsuits but Maria wears long jogging pants and a t-shirt while swimming. Nobody has never seen her in swimming clothes. After sport activities, she undresses her in the toilet and always shows up already decently dressed. When Pille once asked about it, Maria said that she does not like her body. Which was surprising for Pille because Maria is really slim, almost skinny. Sometimes Pille looks at Maria with jealousy and wishes to have such a thin body as she has. Some years ago, Pille's hips started to get larger and she totally hates her new womanly shapes. She finds her hips to be too large and fat. She would like to have a boyish body type as Maria has.



Maria prepares to jump in the water with her full clothes on when some other girls from the camp pass by and say: “Hey, Maria, will you go for a parachute jump in the water?” They laugh and stop at the lake side. Maria stares at them and freezes. “I said, will you go for a parachute jump or for a swim?”, laughs one girl, Vanessa, who takes part in this international youth camp already for a 3rd summer. She does not like much the newcomers as Maria, Pille and Sonia. They have their own rules here! And the new ones don’t know anything about the old rules! She should have the priority to enjoy the lake with her friends since basically it is their lake because last summer they worked to clean the lake side with other boys and girls and thanks to them this savage forest lake side was partially turned into perfect beach side because they brought tons of sand there and worked for several days to make it look as a natural sandy lake side. Vanessa stares Maria, Pille and Sonia with disgust, the other girls with Vanessa whisper and laugh, pointing out on Pille’s and Maria’s body. Pille wishes that Earth could swallow her… Maria just ignores them.



All of a sudden, the despise on Vanessa's mouth turns into a smile. Next moment, its reason reveals. There are Dursun and Davor, two 15 years old boys from Turkey and Macedonia. They are two old friends who met in the camp already 3 summers ago. Dursun looks even older than he is, he has a slight moustache, black shiny hair and big brown eyes. He is very very tall for his age, almost 1,95 cm. Sometimes it feels like he is not feeling comfortable of being so tall, because he sometimes hunches his back to seem shorter. Despite of that, he is handsome and all the girls of the camp secretly admire and fancy him. With Davor, they make a funny pair because Davor is short, only 1,55 cm. But he compensates it with being funny, social and famous in his country – he has a Youtube channel and Instagram account with a lot of followers. Dursun likes computers and programming, so they are perfect friends with Davor – all their free time they spend together in their room, recording new video clips and editing photos or TikTok clips for Davor's social media accounts.

They share the room with Leonardo, a 14 years old Italian boy. He has curly long brown hair and blue eyes, looking as handsome as Dursun despite of many pimples on his face like many teenage boys have. Initially Vanessa liked Leonardo, she even asked him to dance on the 1st evening of cultures but without giving a reason and without any excuse or explanation, Leonardo told her coldly no and walked away. The other girls joked about it for several days and Vanessa felt herself humiliated and not good enough.

The other girls forgot the incident after some days but not Vanessa. Since that unfortunate evening, she has always found a way to humiliate Leonardo. And Maria. Because Maria is the only girl in the camp to whom Leonardo seems to pay attention. So Vanessa has her ways to make her revenge: during last 7 days, she had played a trick every day: on Monday she took Maria's book and throw it in the lake, on Tuesday she pushed Leonardo when he was holding his tray with food ad it all fell on the floor, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday she had other good tricks and then finally yesterday on Saturday she started a rumour that Leonardo must be gay because he only likes girls with boyish body as Maria has. Leonardo left the room and ran towards the forest the other night. "Good for him!", thought Vanessa.

And now there is Dursun, her new object of admiration, approaching with Davor. She smiles even more wider but Dursun looks worried and almost panicking. Without saying hello, he asks everybody in the lake and around it: "Have you seen Leonardo today? He has not slept in his bed this night! He did not return to our room last night!"







Chapter 2

Written by Italy
Illustrated by Spain

It is a cool summer evening, it is 6:30 am, the atmosphere at the camp is heavy and the tension perceptible. Everyone is in the auditorium of the camp, crushed between them in the stands.

Dursun and Davor spent all day scouring the camp. They searched everywhere: in the canteen, in the playing camps, in the art workshop, the multimedia room, in all the dorm rooms, in the kitchens and even in the bathrooms. They asked around, they are certain that they asked everyone. Vanessa, too.

Speaking of Vanessa, she is now in the auditorium with others, for the first time, alone. The others look at her badly, the boys avoid her, and the girls spit poison behind her. All because although Vanessa is considered the embodiment of perfection, Vanessa can't do one thing: she can't hide secrets. This Sonia knows, - Pille, Dursun and Davon. In fact, that afternoon at the lake they witnessed the miserable fall of a myth. At the time of Dursun's question, she had literally petrified herself. - you say? But what do I know! I don't know anything! - she had answered acidily. Her voice was so loud that everyone heard her, and everyone turned to her. Davon had begun to ask her questions in bursts. Vanessa trembled like a leaf, looked down so as not to meet Mary's accusatory gaze, not far from her.





Leonardo is tired. He ran without looking back for miles. With tears in his eyes he is leaning against a tree, with short breath and his legs destroyed. It's not made for sports in general, to be honest, from an early age it was always too low, too thin. His thick curly hair is swollen due to humidity, he feels that the forces are fading, he took water from his backpack which, luckily he had brought, rummages a little inside and finds a packet of biscuits, is confused . It all happened too fast. He usually doesn't mind being teased, but this time it's different. In his head is still very vivid the memory of that evening in the canteen. He was at the table with Dursun and Davor, when at one point some guys started throwing wastepaper at him - screaming at the canteen -To all the boys: do not wear tight shirts or t-shirts because Leo could start courting you! - everyone turned to him and started laughing. They laughed a lot, too. absolutely certain to have asked everyone. Vanessa, too.

Maybe Leonardo was sitting on a rock crying in his shirt all torn, probably because of the fronds that had hindered his escape. At one point, Leonardo screamed crying: "I can't take it anymore'! They all have a reason to blame me! Who for my way of doing, who for my physical appearance or for my pimples...? I don't want to go back to that stupid campus anymore, I prefer to be in the middle of nature and cry. Vanessa keeps haunting me every day and telling everyone I'm gay because the first night I turned down her invitation to dance and she was offended."

The burden of guilt was so great that Vanessa's mind began to digress: "What will happen if they find me out? What will the camp think of me if they realize that it's actually my fault? What if they find out everything? What if they find out everything I've done to Maria and Leonardo? What if my family finds out? My country? What about Leonardo? What if he's lost? What if he's hurt? What if he hadn't just decided to go but to do it and never come back? What if... if he had made a reckless gesture?"

Loud noises have always bothered him. He couldn't stand It anymore. Now Leonardo needs silence. He loves silence. It allows him to think, reflect and do what he loves most. He Takes one of his favourite books out of his backpack. "One, no one and one hundred thousand", an Italian novel that he took with him when he left the camp. He doesn't know what he looks like to others, because he doesn't know how he really Is. What did he do to create this image? Might It be his long hair? Big eyes and long lashes? Delicate features? Maybe the pastel colored clothes and hand. It took a broken femur to convince

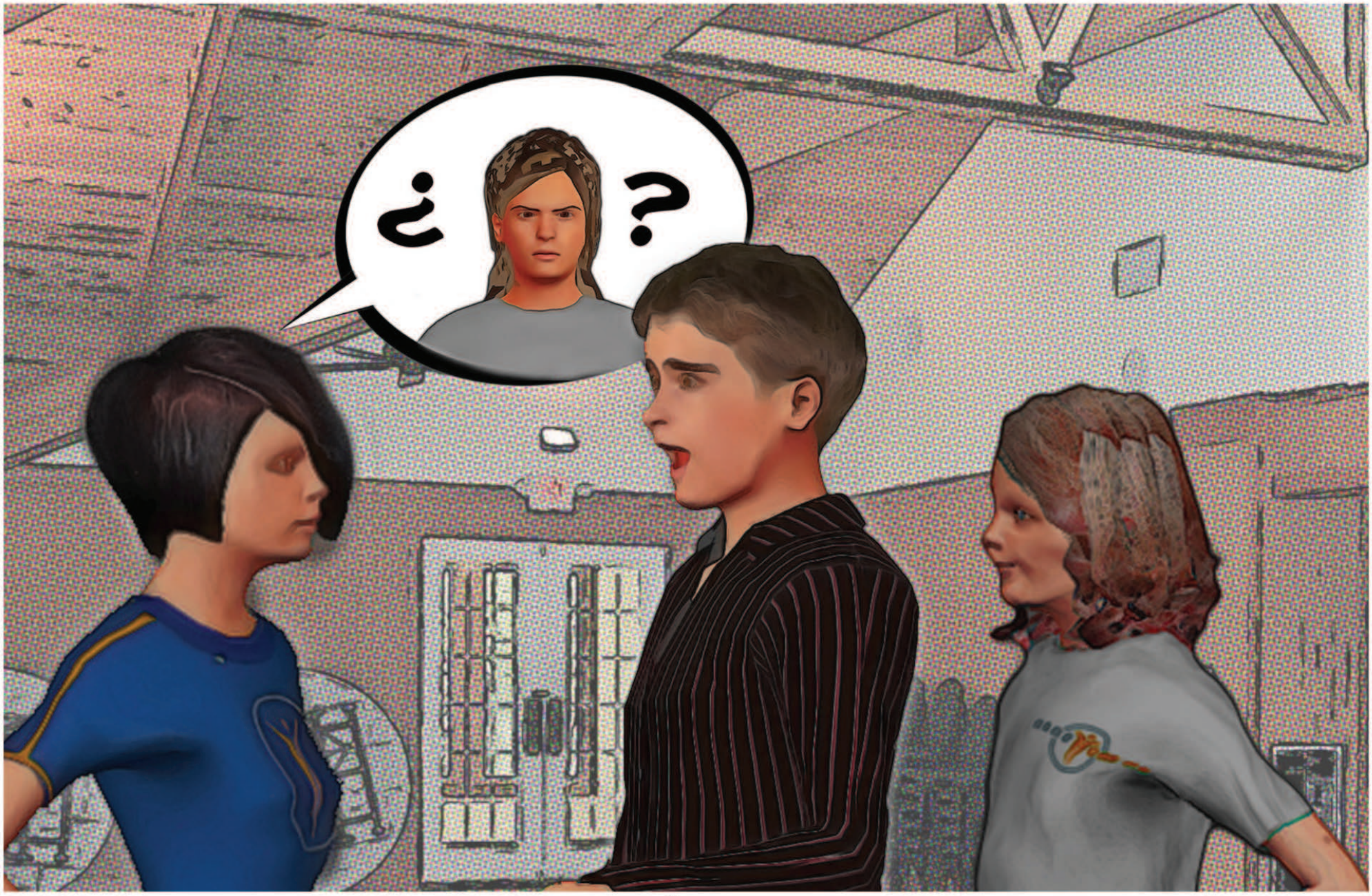
his parents to stop let him training. He tried to approach his peers, but in this small mountain town he could not find any girl worthy of his attention. He couldn't help it if he preferred to listen to classical music, read old fashioned books, draw and go to the theater. It got dark, and now the cold is starting to be felt.

Maria didn't say a word. Finally the auditorium is full, everyone is seated and there is a whispering that resembles the hum of a fly. Next to her are Sonia and Pille. Pille thoughtfully, is weaving her blond hair with a blank stare, as if the repetitive operation of styling her hair would help her concentrate. Sonia tries to read her thoughts and understand what she is thinking up. She is restless, cannot sit still and looks around frantically. Not knowing what to do, he tries to unblock Maria, with a thoughtful and silent look. She asked her why she was strange that night, but Maria with a disinvolved mind replied that she had nothing. Maria was not honest, she was thinking many things, she was worried but she didn't know about what, at that time she didn't recognise herself. Then she realized that this confusion and concern was for Leonardo. She didn't know where he was, what he was doing and what was happening to him. He knows that Vanessa was penting of her acts , but this don't stopped her rage in her regards. But she hasn't proof in her favour ,she can't uncover unfounded accusations. It's her fault, After all, it's always her fault . She must find the clues . Who knows Vanessa? Maybe...Durson? In this panic moments entered the four tutors:Giulia,Michol,Dave e Jason. They explained that there was no sign of Leonardo . Dave says:"I think that everyone knows what's Happening....in four we can't find Leonardo. We need your help".

At some point a tall girl enters, she has an athletic body, with black curly hair as pitch and blond front locks, blue eyes and tanned skin. She wears an old T-shirt of a foreign American band and a black skirt, with fishnet stockings and wedge boots. She moves confidently towards the centre of the stage, the noise of her heels echoing throughout the auditorium.

"Listen, everybody. I know you don't know me, and I don't know you. To be honest, I shouldn't be here. My name's Martina, I'm Leo's sister. Let it be clear that, if I realized that something occurred to my brother, and discovered that someone of you is responsible for it, you would sort it out with me, and I won't have any problems to fracture an arm to anyone".

The aggressiveness of her voice silenced the chatter of the auditorium.



The tutors try to calm her down, the boys stare at her with an intimidated look. Among the frightened looks, however, there is one almost dazed on the girl, that of Dursun. In Dursun's head there is only Martina, Leonardo's sister. He feels upset, he feels butterflies in his stomach as if a lightning strike has hit his heart. That girl who seems so scary and unattainable to everyone seems so small and defenseless to him. He wants to help her, yet the very thought of speaking to her made him anxious and made him sweat. What to do, then? Then in total panic,he glances at his companion,Davor looks back and has already understood everything Dursun, he says in a bored tone, please! Just this time! Davor snorts, gets up and pulls his friend with him. They approached Martina who looks at them with a curious look.

Davor pushes forward Dursun, all red faced. Swelling his chest , he says , with a "masculine" voice - W-We , I mean , Me , wait Us, anyway you understand what I'm saying , we want to help you ! - Durson is shaking like a child and Martina starts questioning herself about Durson's really strange attitude . However she's happy that someone wants to help her; Maria Pille and Sonia joined the research too.

In spite of everything, Martina can't be quiet. She knows all about his brother, even too much. He could never run away if the reason wasn't serious. It will take a long time to find him, but she has to hurry. She isn't alone, everyone knows about the situation,after all. Yes, everybody, except their parents.


ART MCBRIDGE
WILDERNESS PAVILION

Chapter 3

Written by Macedonia
Illustrated by Romania

It was already getting dark, and the moon was rissing slowly. Martina sat impatiently on the chair that Dorsun had brought her and, nervously tapping her foot, began to ask questions to the campers.

Maria listened carefully a little further away from the others and felt a restlessness in her chest that she could not describe at the moment. She knew a secret about Leonardo. A few days after arriving at the camp, they accidentally met in the library and started a conversation that turned into a long night whisper. Their friendship started so strangely and the conversation went so smoothly that they both felt like they had always known each other.

What brought them together was the book. They held the same book in their hands, a favorite of both of them. The same one that Leonardo took with him when he escaped from the camp and decided not to return there again.

They talked about their passion for reading, music and drawing. And then they slowly moved on to the more difficult topic ... and without a problem, as if they had been searching all their lives to share their secrets.



At the end of the evening Leonardo read to Maria his favorite quote from the book:

"Was it really my own, that image glimpsed in a flash? Am I really like that, from the outside, when—all the while living—I do not think of myself? For others, then, I am that stranger whom I surprised in a mirror; I am he and not the I whom I know; I am that one there whom I myself at first, upon becoming aware of him, did not recognize. I am that stranger whom I am unable to see living except like that, in a thoughtless second. A stranger whom others alone can see and know, not I."

And Maria added: "I wanted to be alone in an altogether unusual way, a new way."

Martina's voice brought Maria back to reality: "Where is Vanessa? I want to see her immediately.

"Vanessa ... Vanessa....!" called Martina, but there was no trace of Vanessa...

Vanessa had already penetrated deep into the forest and left behind the camp and everyone in it wondering where she had disappeared.

She was moving fast, lighting the way in front of her with light of the phone, and she knew she had to reach Leonardo first.

She knew she had to find him no matter what...

The feeling of guilt tore her to pieces. She always wanted to do everything right, and things always ended badly. She hurt others and thus hurt herself, and only she knew that deep inside her the dark and bad side were fighting, leaving finally in agony her soul.

Leonardo was still under the same tree, shaking from the cold, holding the book in his hands and thinking about how he got here.



That year his parents finally persuaded him to come to the camp even he did not want to. He did not want camps, hustle and bustle and false friendships. He never had a real friend. He had the best grades in school, but everyone ran away from him and he ran away from them.

He was confused, he did not know what was happening to him for a long time. From time to time some of the girls would send him a long look, but he was not interested in them at all. Not because they were not attracted to him, but because he thought they were empty-headed. Always with the phones in front of them, taking pictures and living in another world far away from reality.

He knew that his parents were worried about him. Although they were committed to him and gave him the best education and lot of love, they felt that they had done something wrong and that Leonardo was not happy.

So he agreed to come to the camp. Because of them.

But on the third day when he met Maria, things began to change.

There was something about that girl that attracted him and made him feel normal. When he was with her, everything was simple and time did not seem to exist. They were so similar that when he looked at her it was as if he were looking at himself in a mirror.

Thinking of Maria and still shivering from the cold, Leonardo heard footsteps and hide in a small dungeon not far from the tree under which he sat. He did not want to be found..... Still.....

The man who walked slowly down beside the trunk of the tree looked tired. He was dressed warmly and carried a large backpack. Leonardo looked at him cautiously and at that moment something told him that he should go out and meet him. Not only because of the cold and the smell of the food that irritated his nostrils but also because of himself.

Leonardo slowly came out of hiding and coughed to hear the man now making his bed to spend the night under the tree.

He was still holding the book in his hands ....

The man just looked at him and showed him his hand to sit next to him. He did not even ask for Leonardo's name ....

- One, no one, and one hundred thousand -the man only said:

- What do you mean?

- Well you're one, right?

- Yes- says Leonardo

- And for me you are stranger, to your sister you're her biggest brother, to grandmother you are her grandson, for the teacher you are ", that boy who disturbs the class", for each person you're someone-else.

-Leonardo (smiling) Yes.

- But for you? Who are you to you? None of those, right? Each sees you in his own way which is different from how you see yourself. And so you are one, you are a hundred thousand of you to a hundred thousand people and none of those hundreds of thousands of you is not you, the one you know you are.

- Leonardo (Laughing) I understand!

Tell me my boy ...



Chapter 4





Written by Romania
Illustrated by Macedonia

“Tell me my boy, who are you?”

“I’m Leonardo,” said the boy.

The man looked at him and began to laugh.

“That’s not what I really wanted you to tell me”.

He turned to him, held out his hand, and said his name, in his turn.

“Bello. It means beautiful in Italian, but, as you can see, the name has nothing to do with my appearance.”

Leonardo looked at the man and noticed that he had a long face like a horse, his slender hair surrounded his face, his lips were fleshy, and his lower one was much turned towards his chin and shone with saliva, his eyes were like sperm whales,

and through the sparse mustache, there was the bruised scar that split his upper lip right in the middle, like the entrance a tent. Leonardo looked ai him surprised. Feeling that the boy was upset, the man tried to relax the slightly overloaded atmosphere:

"As you can see, I provide an image not too pleasant. I am not and have never been a handsome man. While a kid, maybe yes. Almost all children are beautiful. More or less. The one who says that there is no ugly child means that he did not see what I saw", and he bursts out laughing, and the laughter also takes on Leonardo, who slowly begins to relax. He feels well in the presence of this man, just as he felt around Mary.

The man did not ask Leonardo what the matter was with him in the forest, how he got here, but behaved as if he knew what happened, which was why Leonardo relaxed a little. He did not have to start over with explanations. Rising from nearby Leonardo, the man told him it was late and he would not have time to get back to camp .

"At night it will be a bit colder than last night, but at least it won't rain, so a fire would be welcome". He got up and began to gather firewood around him, while Leonardo watched him, not daring to get up and help him. Leonardo had the feeling that the man knew everything about him, although the latter had never seen him before. While making the fire, the man started to assault Leonardo with questions:

"Where are you from? How old are you? What are you doing in this camp? Did you make friends?"

Leonardo answered in undertones, not expecting such an avalanche of questions and not knowing if he should answer the stranger. A trace of distrust still lingered in his soul. He did not explain the man's attitude toward him. How did he know so much about him? Why help him? Who is he really?


Where are you from?
How old are you?
Did you make friends?
What are you doing at this camp?

Sitting with his eyes fixed on the man who was trying to light the fire, at one point , Leonardo asked him what he meant by the statement: “That’s not what I really wanted you to tell me.”

“Superb novel”, said the man, nodding to the book the boy was still holding on to his chest and starting to laugh.



The flames of fire arose from under the roof of the wood and silence fell over the whole forest. The two watched as the flames rose, illuminating their faces, and they listened to the song of the crackling fire. The man took two sandwiches out of his backpack and handed one to Leonardo, saying:



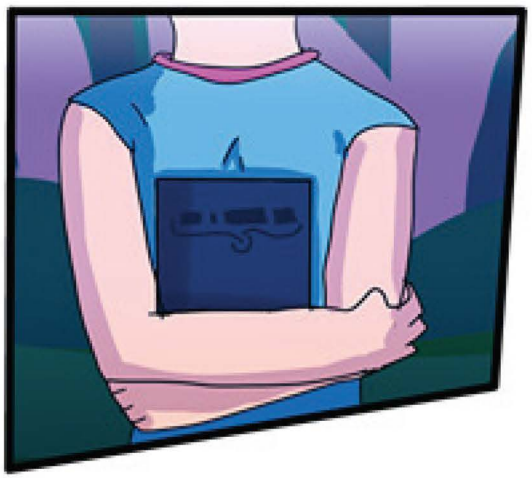
"I guess you've been hungry since you ran away from camp."

Leonardo was surprised by the man's statement and asked him how he knew he had run away from the camp.

"Maybe I just went for a walk and got lost."

"In your eyes one cannot read the despair of the lost, but that of the fugitive. It's the desolation of the lost self, but I don't think you can understand that yet."

There is silence again, only the crackling of the fire and the chewing of the two.



"I think they're already looking for you."

Leonardo didn't answer, he just hugged the book even harder at the thought of having to go back to those who made him feel so bad.

"And in the end what did you mean by that: "That's not what I really wanted you to tell me"?

"The name is not important. Or appearance. One could have copper skin and be called Daktari or have slanted eyes and be called Huang Fu. It's important if you find out who

you are. Pointing to the book on Leonardo's chest again, he reiterated: Couldn't this be one of the interpretations of the novel?''

Only now did Leonardo understand and smile slightly embarrassed that he didn't get the meaning in the first place.

"For a long time I ran away, like you, from myself.''

"Why do you think I'm running away from myself and not from someone?''

"Most people do that. They do this, but refuse to admit it, trying to blame those around them. We all do it at some point in our lives. We do it now, we have probably done it before and we will do it many more times from now on. And, until we come to an understanding, we will always blame those around us. Only when we can understand will we stop our flight. Who do you blame? Who do you say made you run away from camp? A girl or a boy?''

Leonardo jerked and the man raises his hands as in excuse and then added: not judging anyone, then smiled, soothing him.

Everyone finished their sandwich quietly and the man handed a bottle of water to the boy, saying:


Tell me if i am wrong:
Some one in camp said you wore gay right

“Tell me if I’m wrong: Someone in the camp told you you were gay, right?”

“How do you know?”

“I realized that from the reaction you had when I asked you why you had run away from the camp... a girl or a boy.”

The man seemed to know him so well, and yet it was the first time he had met him. However, he felt he could tell him anything. Leonardo began to feel that he could talk as freely as he did with Maria. He looked like the masculine and much older version of Mary.

Vanessa went deep into the forest, it was already dark and, although she was afraid to return to camp without finding Leonardo, she wanted to do it, but she realized that she had got lost. She walked in a circle for minutes, all the trees and bushes began to look the same in the dim light. The cold subsided and panic gripped her. She shouted, but only the echo answered. Probably, without realizing it, she had moved far away from the camp. She put her hands in the sleeves of her sweatshirt and tried to warm up by rubbing her forearms and legs. She wanted to cry and self-criticize again, until, at one point, after almost an hour of wandering, she stopped to listen. Somewhere in the forest, in the darkness that had fallen, faint voices were heard, like a whisper...

Chapter 5

Written by Spain
Illustrated by Italy

Vanessa walked through the woods for about an hour. Before starting Leo´s search, she had felt really worried but it was nothing compared to how she felt later. She thought that even if Leonardo had run away, she would have found him by then. However, there was no trace of him. She was extremely deep into the forest and all kinds of dark thoughts came to her mind. She didn't know if Leonardo was okay, if he was hurt, if he was still in the forest... Maybe he had been kidnapped! Vanessa didn't want to think about that, but she couldn't help it. After all, she was just a simple camper and she was supposed to be the embodiment of perfection, she was supposed to be an example for other campers to follow, not a bully who couldn't get over a rejection from a boy. She was supposed to "protect" the other kids, since they relied on her, and also for a girl being in the camp for a third summer, she should have known better than to harass and bully kids. If she had just got over Leonardo at that moment and had not let other girls get under her skin, maybe none of this would have happened and maybe after some hard trying, she and Leonardo could have become friends, but then he ran away. That´s why Vanessa couldn't stop blaming herself.

But there was something clear, she would do anything to bring him back, he couldn´t be that far...could he? She kept running and running until she heard a conversation between three people, two men and a woman.



"They shouldn't have messed with us, now karma is going to collect their debt."

"And we'll have our money back, that's our goal."

"Of course, but not only money, let's add another dish to our menu, the sweet taste of revenge."

Vanessa was shocked! " What did they mean by revenge?" She obviously didn't know, but... "what if they have seen Leo?" The truth was that they didn´t know who he was, but Vanessa had to be careful since they looked really dangerous. "The revenge that they are looking for is against the camp's director, since they had a couple of disagreements years ago." Vanessa thought.

As Vanessa was willing to do anything to find Leonardo (so she wouldn't be blamed), she approached those people without minding the danger. There were a million possibilities and she didn't think about them, there wasn't enough time to think about that stuff. The situation had a sick twist and before she noticed, she was in an unconscious state...

Back in the camp, everyone was getting very worried about Vanessa's disappearance. It was like it wasn't enough that Leo had gone missing, but now another camper! The tutors went to talk in private and told everybody to go to the auditorium in 15 minutes. At that time, Martina, Pille, Maria, Sonia, Dursun and Davor decided to see what everybody knew, because somebody might know something that they didn't.

They were talking when suddenly one of Vanessa's roommates came to them.

"Hello." said the girl.

"Why are you interrupting us? Don't you see that we're in the middle of something important? If you don't have any information about where my brother or that bully, I mean Vanessa, could be, then goodbye. It is not like I care about the silly girl..." Martina said coldly, mumbling the last part, before the others could even say hello to the poor kid.



At first it looked like the girl was about to go and cry somewhere, but after a second she gathered all her confidence and said: “Hi, my name is Violet. I know Vanessa and I think I may know where she went. Maybe even Leonardo could be there too.”

“Well? Tell us!” said Martina impatiently.

“Ok, I’m not supposed to interrupt, but Martina, you should calm down. How about Pille and Sonia and I stay here to talk to Violet?. The information she has is only about Vanessa, and.. Why don´t you, Dursun and Davor go and get some fresh air and some water? ” suggested Maria, looking at Martina, sounding a bit worried about her health. María also thought that it was a good idea to send Dursun and Davor with Martina, since she knew that Dursan fancied her, so maybe she could kill two birds with one stone.



Martina didn't seem too happy about that, but she saw everyone looking at her with pleading eyes, so she decided to just agree and take 5 minutes to relax, so she just stood up, looked at Dursun and Davor in kind of a threatening way and went to the lake. The two boys quickly followed her.

"So, tell us what you know about Vanessa. I'm Maria ,by the way. This is Pille and this is Sonia." said Maria in a friendly manner, pointing respectfully to herself and then to her friends.

Violet started telling her story.

"Well, when everyone was about to go into the auditorium, I went to my bungalow to take something. Just when I was about to enter, I heard Vanessa's voice. I peeked through the slightly opened door, and saw her on the floor, in front of her nightstand, furiously searching for something. While doing that, she kept repeating that something was her fault and that nobody should find out. Within seconds, she found what she was searching for a flashlight.


SCIENZE
LIBRO
LIBRO

Then she stood up, grabbed a sweatshirt from another drawer and turned to the door. I'm not sure, but if you ask me, she looked like she had been crying a little. Anyway, she went out and started running to the woods, thankfully without noticing me. I was too stunned by what I had just seen that I couldn't stop her, I'm sorry." explained Violet.

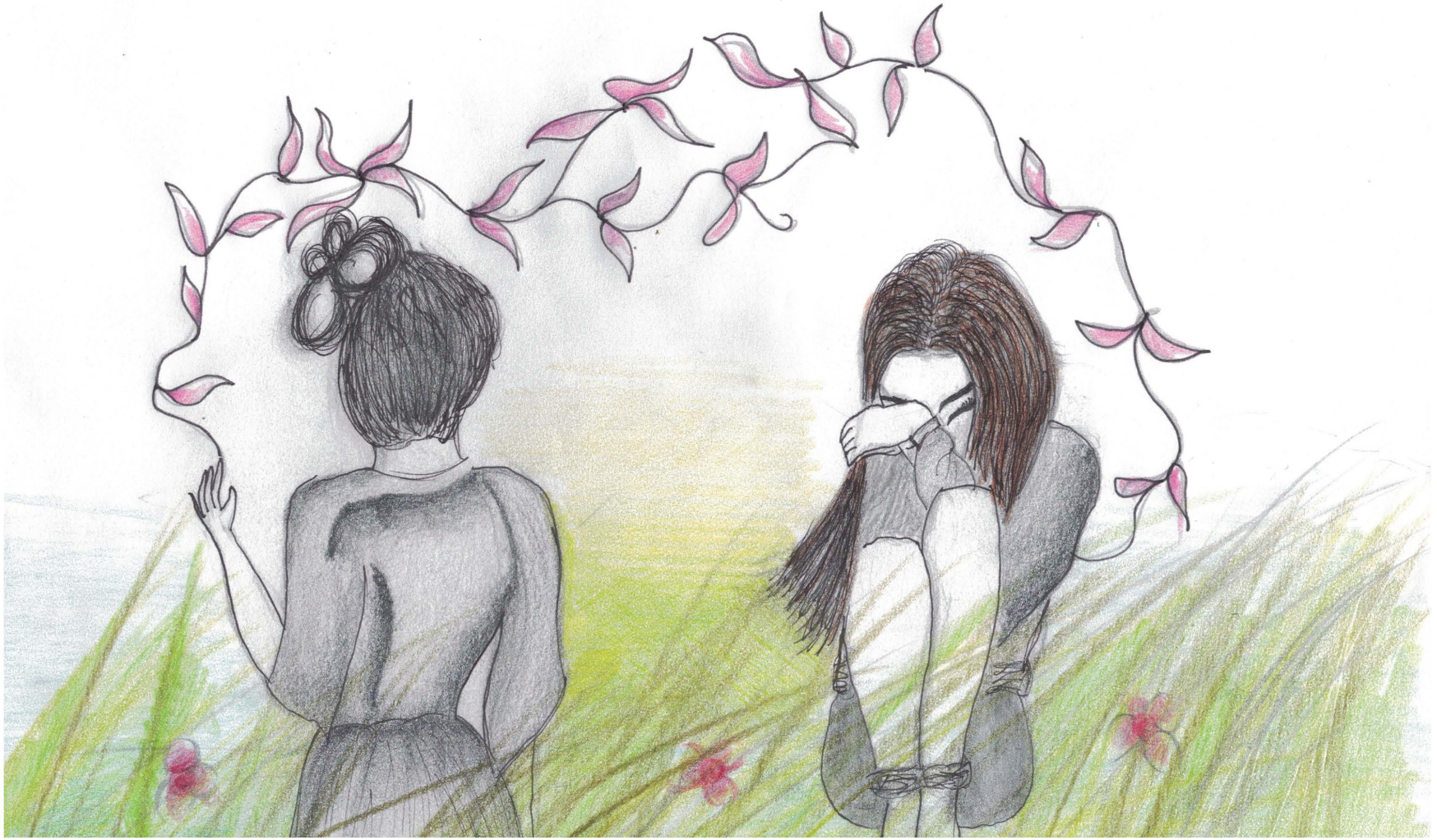
Maria and her friends were shocked! They didn't expect such behaviour from Vanessa. The girl who bullied them and played pranks on Maria and Leonardo actually had feelings and was probably sorry for what she had done...



Meanwhile, Martina and Dursun were talking at the lake, their fingers touching. Dursun had sent Davor to get Vanessa some water. Somehow, maybe because of the fresh air or because Maria saw the dreaming looks Dursun was giving her, she decided to open up about how she was actually feeling...at least a little... Soon enough she was sobbing on his shoulder... Martina was blaming herself about her brother running away, but Dursun reassured her that it wasn't her fault.



The strong, independent girl, who seemed so intimidating, was just a simple scared girl right now, who hoped the worst hadn't happened. He gently wiped away her tears and gave her a warm hug, just before Davor returned with the water - the truth being that he saw what was happening so he decided to wait a little. After that, they decided to go back to the others. Just then the 4 tutors called everyone back in the auditorium to tell them what they were going to do.



While all this was happening, Leonardo was sleeping. He was peacefully asleep under a tree.

The fire crackling and the crickets chirping. For the first time in a long time, he was feeling good about himself, finally not feeling the need to judge his appearance or think about how other people saw him. He was content with what he looked and felt like and all because of the old man. He was planning to sleep a little and ,after that, thank the old man for the wise words and go back to camp. But little did he know that the old man was long gone... or maybe he was never even there. No one could answer that question and the only thing left from that mysterious encounter was a note in his book saying *"Stop running away from yourself and blaming others for that. Until you come to understand that, you will always blame the ones around you. Only when you can understand, you can stop your fight."*

Well, while everything seemed to be getting better piece by piece, Vanessa was still unconscious, tied up with a rope, with a cloth on her mouth to stop her screaming once she woke up, lying on the dirty ground in one of the kidnapper's tents. The two men and the woman thought she was a snitch and feared she would tell the camp's tutors what she had heard. The truth is that she only seeked help. But well, now that she was out of the way, the kidnappers were going to start their revenge, and what was expected at the camp.., only they knew...





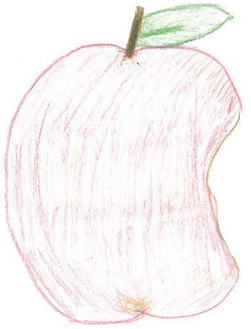
Chapter 6

Written by Turkey
Illustrated by Estonia

Leonardo woke up. Even though the place where he lay was not as comfortable as in the camp, he had a good sleep. Light sleep looked around in a dazed state. After a few seconds he recovered and realized that after what happened last night, there was no fire and no tents around. He thought again. Why wasn't there? He thought that the events he experienced yesterday might be a dream. But no, that didn't make sense to him. But he was also wondering why there were no signs of the incident around. Still, he didn't want to think about it. He was feeling hungry. He saw his purse. He was right next to his sleeping place, reached out and took his purse. He started to mix it up. Frankly, he didn't have much hope because the previous time he had barely found a packet of biscuits and a bottle of water. Still he kept shuffling and yes, he found it. He was starting to empty everything in the bag when he found an apple.



He was glad he found food, but he was not so glad that only apples were found. Still, he began to eat the apple with big bites indifferently, and in a long time it was the only stalk left from the apple. This calmed his hunger a little. But what could possibly be from an apple?



He started thinking about the book, ignoring the hunger. Who was the old man? What exactly did he mean? Was it all imaginary? He thought about what the man had said. It was a dream, perhaps a dream, since there were no symptoms around. He began to believe completely that what he had experienced with the man was untrue. He was right when he thought of what he said, even if it was not true. He learned to face himself. He thought. He was not going to gain anything by standing here.

He decided to go to the camp. But he thought he was missing. Still, he decided to take his chances, but it could have disappeared further. Without thinking about it, he slipped into the forest. Since the surroundings were bright, he could easily see the front. But he didn't know his direction. It would be about half an hour that he wanted to give up, but he didn't because he knew it would be worse if he did. About 15 minutes later he heard someone's voice.

Even if he didn't know who he was at first, he later recognized the owner of the voice. Someone was yelling and she was her older sister. Leonardo started screaming, too. They both ran to where the sound came from and finally found each other. Behind Martina were Dursun and Davor. Martina and Leonardo hugged. His sister was asking questions to him but Leonardo didn't want to talk. Martina also understood the situation and just said, "Let's go camping."

They walked towards the camp. When Davor and Dursun forced him on the way, he told the events. They reached the camp by talking. People in the camp saw them. The cries increased, saying Leonardo is here, and in a short time many people gathered around them. Leonardo timidly walked towards his bungalow, while many asked what happened. The crowd was still there. When Leonardo left, he started asking questions to Martina, Dursun and Davor. They also answered the questions.

Meanwhile, Vanessa slowly began to wake up. When she first opened her eyes, she saw the kidnappers and heard them

whisper. Then she tried to untie her hands but failed. She thought of Leonardo then. Vanessa wondered what he was doing. What was he doing now? Was he Safe? Did anything happen to him? Did he go back to the Camp? Many questions came to mind. Then she saw the kidnappers walk away. Vanessa thought the kidnappers were going to camp. At that time, the night began. Then Vanessa saw the kidnappers return with firewood. The kidnappers started to catch fire. The environment warmed up and the kidnappers fell asleep.

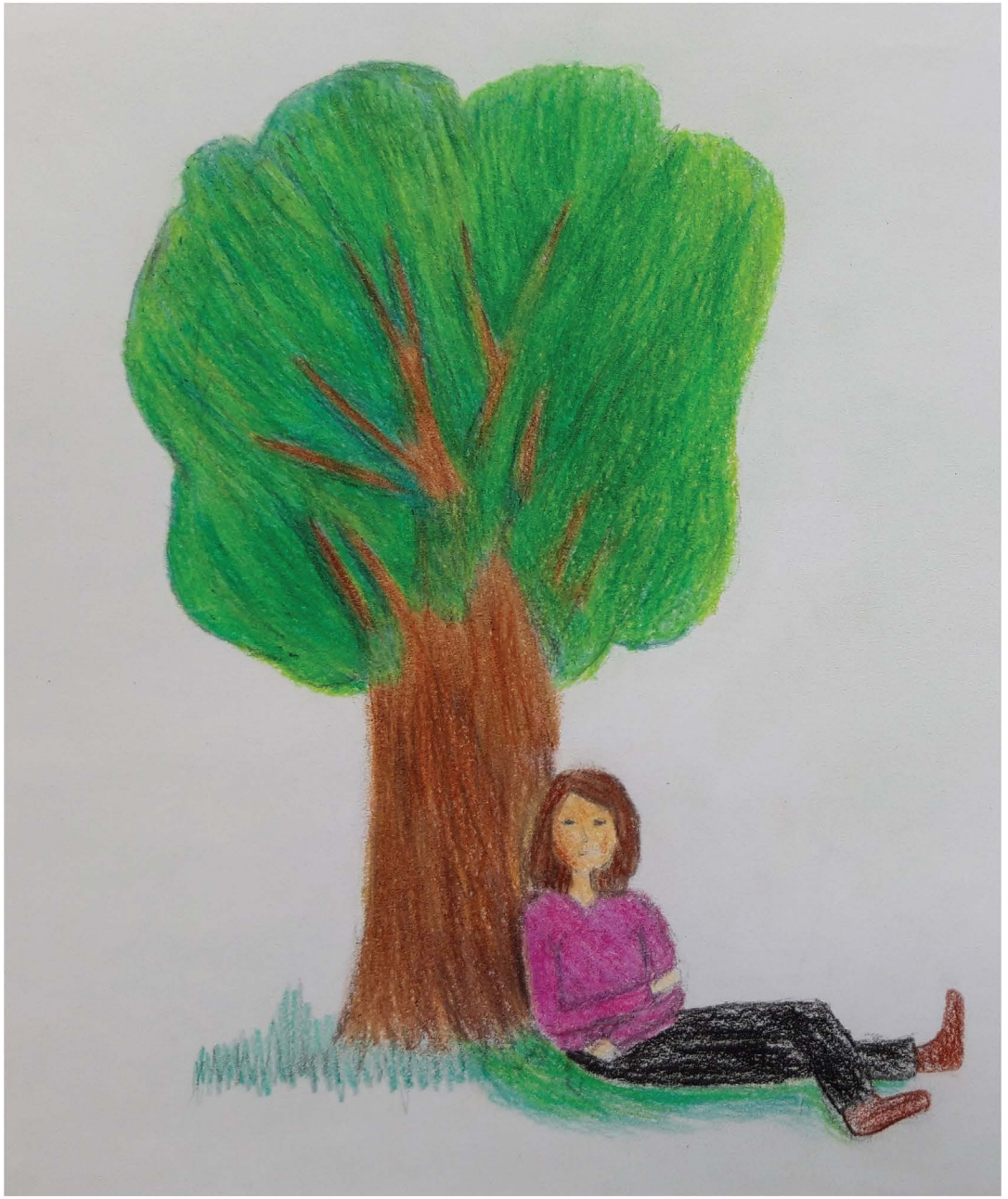
Vanessa noticed the kidnappers asleep and began looking for a solution to untie their hands. She looked around and saw shards of glass on the floor. She reached for one of the glass shards with her foot. With her right foot, she pulled the piece of glass into her right hand. She took the piece of glass and untied her hands after a long struggle. After untying her hands, he untied her feet. She stood up. As she looked around, she realized that she was with the people who had hijacked her phone. She quietly went to get her phone. Then she quickly picked up her phone and walked away. She immediately picked up her phone.


zzZ

She saw that her battery was low. She immediately texted Davor.

The message was this: “Davor, this is Vanessa. They abducted me somewhere in the forest. I was able to untie my hands. 3 people abducted me. 1 woman and 2 men. My battery is low. Please save me, I’m begging”. She sent the message and the phone hung up.

Vanessa was waiting for her friends to come and save her. The weather was very cold. The gay remembered the day she slandered. She regretted it again. She sought ways to have her friends forgiven.



Davor was surfing social media before texting. Then he noticed Vanessa's message. Dursun was sleeping during this time. Davor immediately lifted Dursun and pointed to Vanessa's message. They both went up to their friends excitedly and showed the message. Then everyone gathered and informed their teachers.

Sonia and Pille said: "We have to go searching". Maria also made the following suggestion: "Let's call the police and start when the cops come".

The teachers found this idea appropriate and called the police. Then they waited for the police to arrive. Everyone was very hectic. A few minutes later the police came and started searching.

Waiting excitedly with his friends, Leonardo was upset that he ran away because Vanessa was in danger too. But he stopped worrying and took action with his friends to save Vanessa. And he prayed for Vanessa to be found.

Meanwhile, one of the kidnappers woke up and realized that Vanessa wasn't there. It awakened the others as well. They immediately started looking for Vanessa. Vanessa was very tired. So he sat under a tree. The kidnappers noticed Vanessa. Just as he was about to catch it, he saw his friends, teachers and the people who kidnapped the police. The cops caught the kidnappers. Then they rescued Vanessa and returned to the camp. Then the police arrested the kidnappers.

Vanessa apologized to everyone, especially Maria and Leonardo. This event became the legend of the school. Everyone was telling each other about the event. In fact, this incident took place in the news and the heroes of this event are now best friends Vanessa, Maria, Martina, Pille, Leonardo, Dursun and Davor. A few weeks later, six friends came to the director with an idea. The manager liked the idea and they were starting to prepare ...

Leonardo woke up to some voices. When he got out he saw everyone gathering somewhere. Leonardo mingled with the crowd and saw the poster. It was written on the poster that the principal was waiting for all students in the hall at nine o'clock in the evening.

While everyone was happy with this news, Leonardo was unhappy. Because he hated crowded and noisy environments.

He went to the refectory with bad morale. He had breakfast with confused thoughts. Then he went to the lake and started to read his book.

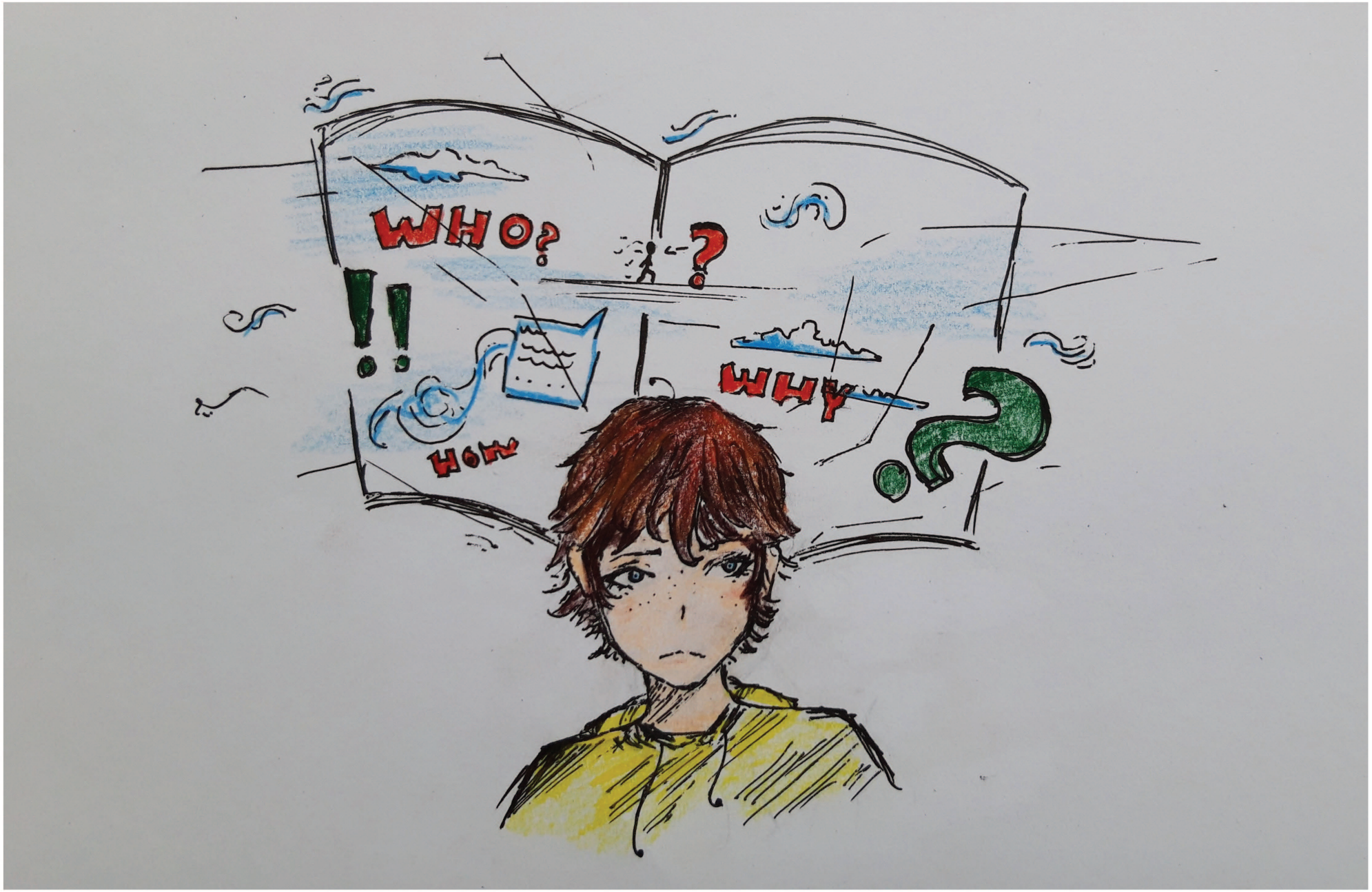
The weather was beautiful and the sun was high, although no one had come to the lakeside. He thought it was a good opportunity for him. Then he started to read his book...



Six friends had been preparing for the theater for days: Davor and Pille posters, Maria strings, Vanessa and Martina costumes, and Dursun prepared the decor. They had done the job hand in hand. A few minutes later, the moment had come when they were going to show the theater to the whole camp.

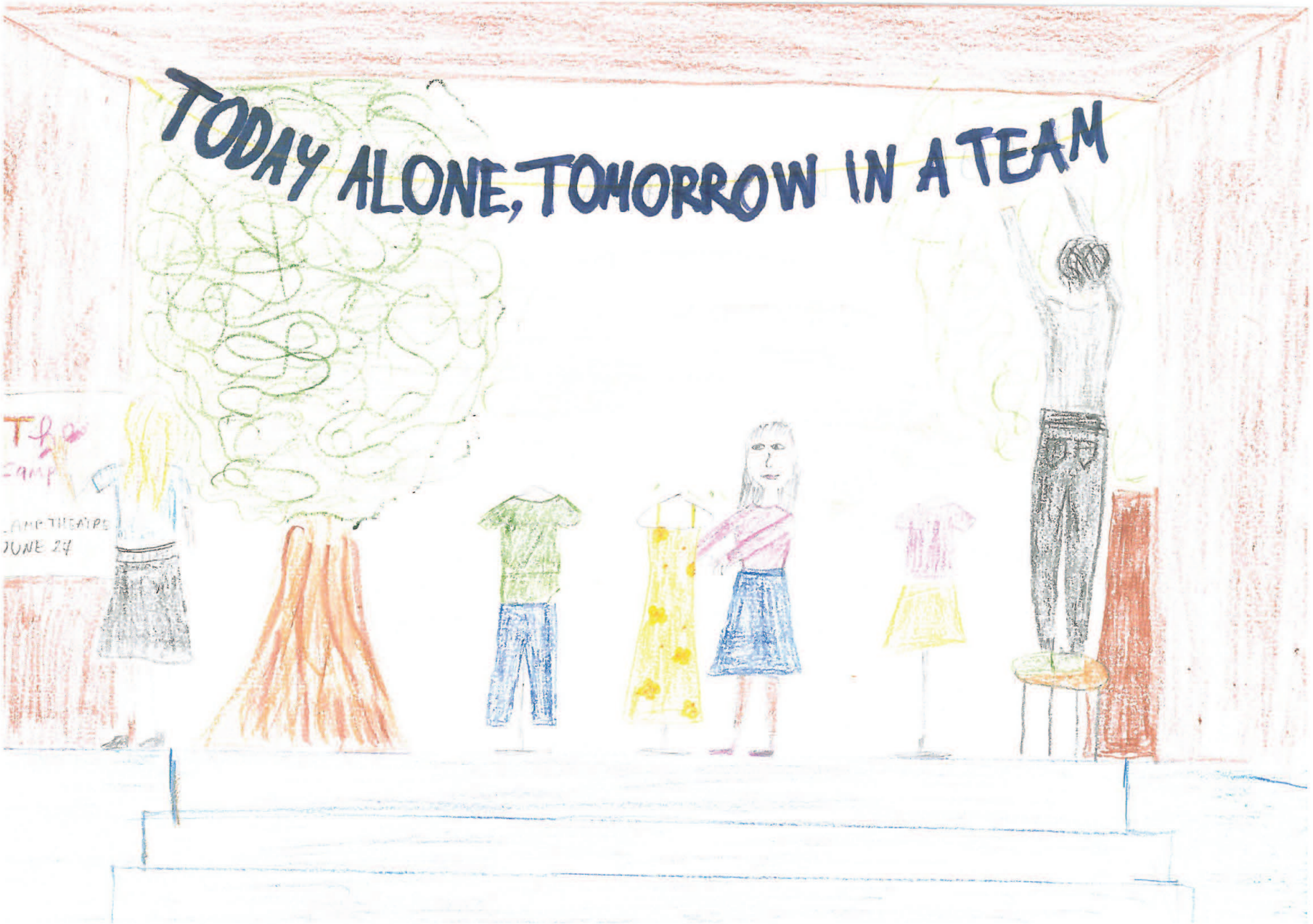
When it was too dark to read the book, he decided to go to the hall. Just then he realized that Maria was coming towards him. When he tries to stand up, she indicates that he must sit with her hand. “How are you doing?” Asked Maria. Leonardo replies, “I’m fine.” Maria also has a book. Meanwhile, the book in Maria’s hand catches Leonardo’s attention. Leonardo: “Did you like the book?” he asks.

Maria said she liked the book. And so Maria and Leonardo’s conversation about the book begins. As the conversation progressed, Maria and Leonardo began to voice their thoughts on the book. When he found out that she loved the book as much as himself, he felt closer to Maria. He was happy to find mutual pleasure between Leonardo and Maria. At that time, a conversation came with the author of the book. Leonardo noticed at that moment. He did not know anything about the author of the book. What was he like? , its appearance? , his way of thinking...


WHO?
?
!!
HOW
WHY
?

Then he remembered the photos of the writers behind the books. Was it also in this book? He quickly grabbed his book and looked at its back cover, and indeed there was a photo of the author. “What happened?” he looked like Ignoring Maria, Leonardo began to examine the author’s picture. The writer looked exactly like the person he saw in the forest. At first he could not believe this similarity, but as he examined it, he realized that they were the same person. The stones in his mind were beginning to settle down. Having read the book many times, he had seen the author’s picture, but he had not paid any attention. The painting stood on one side of the subconscious. And here was the subconscious playing tricks on him when he needed help most. Who else could he be who could counsel him, but the author of his favorite book? Just then, Maria nudged Leonardo and freed him of his thoughts. Maria “Leonardo is getting late, we have to go now.” said. The two of them went towards the hall.

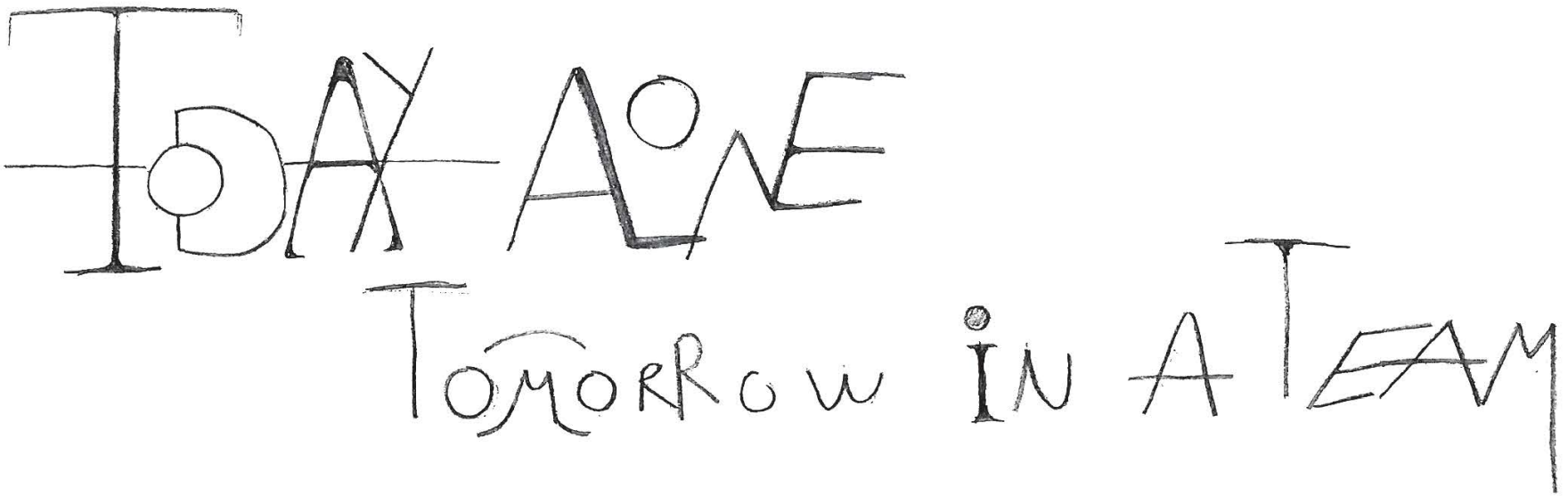
The manager had started talking as they entered the room. Leonardo had survived the noisy environment he had been waiting for. Seeing that a place was empty in the front rows, he sat down. The chair behind Maria was empty. She immediately sat down in someone. The scene behind the principal caught his attention. At that time, his friends came to his mind. “I wonder where were they all day?” As he thought, clapping sounds began to come. When he turned, he saw his friends on the stage. His friends were playing a theater play.


TODAY ALONE, TOMORROW IN A TEAM

Some of the characters were based towards each other. Increasingly, this game was getting Leonardo's attention. At the end of the game, the friends realized that it was a bad thing to approach with prejudice and started a project called "Today Alone Tomorrow in a Team". The theater thus came to an end. His friends saluted and took the audience seats. Then the director appeared on the stage, thanking the actors for the play. And everyone, including Leonardo and his other friends, was shocked when he said he had another surprise. The director began to speak:

- The fact that this slogan is the subject of a theater performance that is repeated every year will honor us and all our teachers.

This slogan has now become a theater tradition that will be repeated every year.



The principal's speech was over. Everyone was going to have a good night's sleep after a quiet day. Okay Vanessa, Maria, Martina, Pille, Leonardo, Dursun and Davor. They were currently celebrating the show by the campfire. They promised to meet again the next summer.



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