

XVI Edition of the National Competition **YOUNG PEOPLE REMEMBER**

SHOAH

2017/2018



INTERNATIONAL
**HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE**
ALLIANCE



2018 ITALIAN CHAIRMANSHIP



*Direzione Generale per lo Studente
l'Integrazione e la Partecipazione*



The national competition “YOUNG PEOPLE REMEMBER SHOAH”, this year at its 16th edition, is a successful educational tool for the new generations to deepen both their human and civil development. It collects many innovative works with diverse techniques that often wander the committee for their deepness and creativity in tackling such a difficult topic.

This competition is an expression of the collaboration between the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI) inspired by the certainty that to remember means first of all to instill in the younger generation the flame of remembrance working on an “intergenerational memorial deal” that involves students of every level precisely because it’s among the school desks that individual consciousness and awareness compare themselves to the different cultures of a pluralist world.

On the occasion of the Italian Chairmanship of the IHRA, the Ministry of Education, University and Research - Directorate General for Student, Integration and Participation, together with the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities and the Italian delegation to the IHRA, brings to the Italian Embassy in Berlin an exhibition gathering some of the works received -for this last edition- from different schools among the country and from every level - primary, secondary and high schools.

The exhibition counts few works selected among hundreds received and includes winners, honourable mentioned and works that reveal an emotional impact and a deep historical research.

The idea of the exhibition aims both to acknowledge the tireless work carried on by students and teachers all over Italy and to show the results of one of the best practice about teaching the Shoah.

It shows how, such a delicate and complex issue, can be developed through so many different techniques of expression: graphic and painting works, classroom walls, handmade drawings, installations, albums of different kinds and measures, theatre performance, songs, DVD videos, chats and remarkable pieces of historical and documentary research realized by many institutes over the years and often linked to the history of their own local area. This heterogeneity testifies not only an in-depth analysis of the theme but also a full participation, fantasy and imagination.

Among the themes developed through the works, visitors will appreciate collections of testimonies, destruction of the social issue due to the Racial Laws of 1938, stories of salvation, the return and necessity of Memory transmission concerning what happened and current events happening worldwide concerning new forms of racism and discrimination.

The vitality, ardour and empathy expressed by these works - along with the analysis preceding their creation - are indicators of a shared and living Memory, made concrete and updated by these “young” narrative voices.

In the last few years, students have shown a particular interest in what is currently happening in Europe and worldwide, where the massive increasing of immigration flows produces new forms of intolerance toward the “different”. Despite the due distinctions, the analogies observed by students between old and new acts of discrimination show how the study of the tragic event of Shoah plays a crucial role in raising the awareness of the new generations; remembering terrible memories can, therefore, light a significative light of hope.

The exhibition is an initiative advertised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research - Directorate General for Student, Integration and Participation - and Union of the Italian Jewish Communities.

“Vigevani’s family, a choice of love”

Class 1F - Primary school “Carlo Collodi”

Fidenza (PR) - Emilia Romagna



Movie

The work has as protagonist a Parma family during the Racial Laws and the Second World War. During an educational path the children learnt about the Vigevani family and, after a deep research, they chose to narrate how they fled to Switzerland and saved their lives through an accurate and detailed video. A voiceover tells the facts, while “acted” pictures illustrate the story starting from the Racial Laws and their implication in the daily life. The Vigevani’s story is emblematic as similar ones were lived by many Jews.

Once the video was ready, the class contacted through Facebook and met one granddaughter of our protagonists. She and the other descendants, who nowadays live all over the World, later sent a video to the children to thank them for their passion and love.

“Winton macht frei”

**Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 A & B - Primary school “S. Spaventa Filippi”
Avigliano (PZ) - Basilicata**



Artistic work - Cardboard

Among many stories of safeties, the teachers chose to narrate to their students Nicholas Winton's one who, working together with the "British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia", saved many Jewish Czech children before the beginning of the Second World War.

The starting point of the reflection path was the symbolic picture of the entrance of Auschwitz with the "Arbeit macht frei" sign. The contradiction between the "work sets you free" at the entrance and the reality made founded once inside the death camp moved the students who wanted to work around that image. The classes decided to rebuild the facade - with recycled materials - changing the sign in "Winton macht frei" to tell a real story of freedom.

Opening the gate doors you can find a lawn with 669 flowers. Each flower, beautiful and unique, represents a single child. Between the flowers, you can also glimpse 669 Jewish names, one for each child save by Nicolas Winton. Children, who - unlike many others - could keep their own identity and uniqueness, could live their life and "blossom as flowers".

"A story... Irena Sendlerowa"

Classe 1 B - Primary school "Don Roberto Angeli"

Livorno - Toscana



Artistic work - Billboard

After discovering Irena Sendler's story - who smuggled many Jewish children from Warsaw Ghetto and then provided them with false identity documents and shelter saving approximately 25000 lives- the young pupils learnt more about the places and the time period in which this happened and re-elaborated it in a book full of simple drawings with a immediate impact.

"The wind of memory"

Class 3 H - Middle school "Agatino Malerba"

Catania - Sicilia



Movie - Whatsapp simulation

The work is an imaginary Whatsapp group where fictional characters debate about the enactment of the Racial Laws in 1938. The Whatsapp group, created by a student to discuss the antisemitic legislation, engages various classmates who - through messages and images - express different positions and points of view. Who supports the Racial Law and the fascism with certainty or in fear and who disagrees strongly or with doubts. Isacco, a Jewish boy who has to leave the school, takes also part of the group interacting with all his classmates.

To work on the dynamic each (real) student tried to identify himself with one of the fictional character and the first result was a conversation where everyone was against the Racial Laws; they then understood that was historical incorrect and few of them challenged themselves to take the opposite position and deal with the reactions.

The Whatsapp chat choice bridges the past events with the new generation and shows that also this fast way of communication can face serious issues without losing in deepness.

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“Events, stories, memories not to forget”

**Class 2 D - Middle School “Don Lorenzo Milani”
Ariano Irpino (AV) - Campania**



Artistic work - Diary with images

Starting from a detailed study that included meetings with Ugo Foà - a survivor, Silvia Scola - screen-writer of the movie “Unfair Competition” (2001) and Dr Aart Heering - spokesman for the Dutch embassy, the students wanted to create a work that could help in stimulating and spreading awareness of the Racial Laws consequences. They chose to express through illustrations and thoughts the experience of an imaginary girl victim of the laws in parallel with some memories of survivors and reflections on what is happening nowadays.

The diary purpose is to encourage the youths to reflect on historical events without forgetting the current ones.

"1938 P.O.P. U.P. DIFFERENCE - Before or after: a small difference"

**Class 2 E - Middle school "Druento"
Druento (TO) - Piemonte**



Pop up and letters

The enactment of the antisemitic legislation of 1938 is a history closer than what it's perceived; if not time-wise at least space-wise: Torino - very close to Druento- had an important Jewish community hit by the Racial Laws. Their consequences were therefore suffered by people that could be neighbours of the students and who walked in the same streets as them. Thinking of this proximity it's easier for 12-13 years old teenager steps into a peer's shoes, a peer that the laws distanced from his daily and social life and isolated as unwanted in their own Nation. It was challenging for the class to understand and explain that discrimination doesn't always mean violence and that - together with the small number of the Jewish population - this non-violent appearance made the legislation easily accepted and embraced. The project wants to work on two levels. The first one is the pop-up images with the idea of conveying immediately the discriminations that completely changed the lives of thousands of Italian Jews; and the second is the imaginary correspondence between two brothers and their cousin that reveals astonishment, delusion and disorientation.

“Break the silence”

**Class 4 A - High School “Giovanni Paolo II”
Maratea (PZ) - Basilicata**



Artistic work - Cardboard's Statue

The artwork represents symbolically the Jewish suffering caused by the persecutions. A tear lacerates the work with a symbolic function: pouring out all the fears bearing memories. It feels like a powerful explosion after keeping hidden inside the pain. The statue, full of names and symbols written in red ink, represents the bloodshed and the deaths. The white human figure on it stays for the loss of identity. The broken shape and the bloodied razor wire are an ominous sign for what Jews had suffered. Fascist posters, aged using the coffee, remind the will of isolating the Jews.

Recycled materials and the red fabric symbolize a ground repository of this cruel tragedy. The work comes with a video and a soundtrack: “Another brick in the wall” by the Pink Floyd.

"The Shoah Effect"

**Class 5 C, 5 D1, 5 D2 & 5 S - High school "Tonino Guerra"
Novafeltria (RN) - Emilia Romagna**



Web site - <http://theshoaheffect.altervista.org/>

There is a difference between knowing the facts and understanding why they happened; history is nowadays studied superficially and the result is that we do not learn from the past.

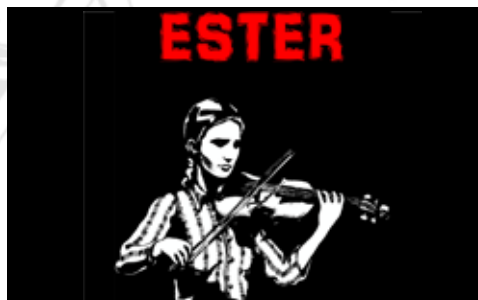
The students decide then to deepen the Shoah through the study of the antisemitism roots, the research about their area, the analysis of survivors' words and the observation of today reality. The Shoah Effect is a website created with the aim of making accessible to all the topic of the Shoah and of the Racial Laws as we still face the frequent phenomenon of racism, intolerance and discrimination.

Students' goal is to contribute to change the world: *"Young people have the right to dream and to dream a better world. But dreaming is not enough, it's essential that each one of us commits to proving that history cannot be repeated. And the best way to change others is to make the change".*

"Ester"

Class 3 B, 4 A, 5 A, 5 B - High school "Betty Ambiveri"

Presezzo (BG) - Lombardia



Graphic novel

The Graphic novel is an peculiar and unusual reflection on the deportation of Italian Jews in Rome happened on September 16, 1943. The work is not a biography and does not pretend to be a historical document. Even though very plausible, Ester is an imaginary story, thought to facilitate the consideration of issues that are still dramatically current.

Ester is a fictional character who lives in the Roman ghetto and had two wishes: to become a violinist and to be noticed by her first love Gioele. However, her adolescent dreams and her life will be erased first by the enactment of Racial Law and then by the deportation and the death in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

“Dreidel 38”

**Class 3 A – Primary School “De Petra”
Casoli (CH) - Abruzzo**



Artistic work - Historical Game

Inspired by ‘playful learning’ principles, precious when facing such a delicate topic, Dreidel 38 is a learning table game about the Fascist Racial Laws implemented in the schools.

Instead of a traditional dice, there is the ‘dreidel’, a traditional top used during the Jewish holiday Hanukkah.

On the game board, a Star of David is drawn by the pieces itinerary and surrounded by some of the Institutions closed off to the Jews and symbol of exclusion.

The pawns are simple pebbles of two different colours: the Jewish and the Aryan (but also the black and the white, the Italian and the foreigner, etc...).

Just as the mentioned laws, the game rules discriminate one of the two players, but the Art. 3 of the Italian Constitution is the end of the game that can be reached only with a collaboration between both of the players.

“Desk38”

**Class 3 B - Middle school “G. Marconi
Canosa di Puglia (BT) - Puglia**



Artistic work - Historical Desk

“The work represents a hypothetical school desk back in 1938. All the objects chosen are thought to give hints about the historical and political context.

The students themselves built, using recycled materials, a wooden desk on which there are: two inkwells of glass with the nib, a wooden pencil case with coloured pencils and crayons, a rubber, a typical glue “coccoina”, few books and two notebooks; you can also see carved different etchings.

The book covers show emblematic images, used and published by the antisemitic propaganda; for example “il fungo Velenoso” explained the difference between Aryans and not and it was very popular among the fascist students. As opposed was included on the desk one of Lina Schwarz’s book entitled “Il libro dei bimbi” - “kids book” that at the time was censured as written by a Jew.

The notebooks consist of two diaries with thoughts about the Racial Laws; one of a Jewish girl and the other one of one of her classmate.

"The labyrinth of the fear"

Class 5 B - High school "Torlonia Bellisario"

Avezzano (AQ) - Abruzzo



Artistic work - Wrought iron

It synthesizes pain, suffering and death that are inextricably connected with every aspect of the Shoah. The artwork is composed of a sequence of circles and vertical planks soldered together to build a labyrinth where names of death and concentration camps are positioned with a central star of David that supports the sign JUDE. The material and the shapes are chosen to remind the painful path, a never-ending labyrinth, of the Jews who were killed in the camps. Iron is cold as the desolation lived by the victims; the iron of the labyrinth is the same one as of the sign "Arbeit machth frei", of the crematorium, of the rifles and of the soldiers' studded shoes.

The circle, with its perfect shape with no end and no beginning, is the symbol of the eternal wander of the Jewish people among the centuries.

It represents the eternal flow of time and symbolizes the life that the nazi thought they could break up.

The names of the concentration and death camps are the thread of lives torn by a rough and ignorant ideology that preaches a blind violence with the aim of extinguishing the "song of life".

The artwork with its harshness wants to be a warning for current and next generations in order that they won't allow this "violence scream" coming back and scratching again human hearts and that won't happen again to silence human conscience and to lost human intellect.



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