

Il progetto presentato da Loredana Caruso: “The Addams Family – Writing for Dramatization” è incentrato sull'uso della creatività. Loredana, che insegna a Roma, nella scuola secondaria inferiore, dopo aver a lungo insegnato nella scuola secondaria superiore, utilizza una didattica incentrata sull'uso della creatività, come mezzo per coinvolgere la motivazione degli studenti e del docente stesso. Il progetto ha coinvolto gli alunni nella stesura di un copione con i personaggi della famiglia Addams, e nella successiva rappresentazione in classe.

The Sirio di Giuliomaria Award for 2011 was given to Loredana Caruso for her project “The Addams Family – Writing for Dramatization”. This project promoting creativity through writing and drama focuses on creativity in the classroom as a means of involving and motivating the teacher as well as students. Loredana’s project involved her high school level students in writing an original script for the Addams family characters followed by the actual classroom performance.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: *INTRODUCING LITERATURE AND DRAMA.*

The use of creative activities is often a captivating solution for students, as they learn by enjoying what they are doing. In proposing literature for the first time, I use different strategies: for poetry I supply students with rhyming words, asking them to look for others and leading them to the composition of short poems (the results are always amazing). Sometimes I read some English poems to let them enjoy the sound, or compare poems in different languages and show the students how the translation into Italian would weaken the harmony and the musicality of the poem. Sometimes I introduce fiction through films or with a discussion about the main topic of the passage/book we are going to read (possibly something in which they could feel involved). For drama, I play Hamlet’s most famous monologue that I know by heart or let them invent a text that they can perform in front of the class.

This project was based on writing a script and enjoying playing in class, as an introduction to literature. I used “The Addams Family” as a topic, to make the performance funny and amusing.

#### THE OBJECTIVES: IMPROVING WRITING AND COMMUNICATION. LEARNING BY ENJOYING.

##### *WRITING FOR DRAMATIZATION.*

Writing, as well as singing and dramatization, is a natural way of expression. People, if free from blocks and constrictions, usually like writing. It gives the opportunity to create and communicate our ideas and feelings to the others. If dramatization follows, it will add more affectivity and cathartic power; but if we have no time to dedicate to the preparation of a performance, we can keep as an objective the part of writing. The purpose is to write and produce something to be read or performed. No matter what they write, they will enjoy.

##### *THE TASK: WRITING AN EPISODE OF “THE ADDAMS FAMILY”.*

I proposed this work in two classes of a third year of a High School (Liceo Classico “Vivona”, 1 i-h; school-year: 2008-2009), divided into different groups: the purpose for every group was writing a short act of the famous TV series “The Addams Family”, a family with a taste for macabre and very strange habits. The students understood the spirit of the work and it became a sort of game-competition, with original and amusing ideas. Of course there was difficulty in rendering their ideas in a good English. I helped, encouraged and monitored them, even though at the end there were still many mistakes. I corrected only the necessary for the comprehension, not altering their ideas,

giving suggestions and enhancing self-correction. The result was what you can read as follows, written in 3 one-hour lessons (although the work lasted longer). We even tried the dramatization, but we had no time to prepare something that could be performed in front of an audience. The important element was that they worked on language, they asked questions, they were interested in how grammar works (differently from the normal lessons, in which you have to call and call their attention again), in few words they liked what they were doing. I explained how the English like playing games with words ("puns") and I gave them my own contribution with a "Good *mourning*" instead of a "Good morning", playing with different words with the same sound, that in this context assumed a macabre connotation, perfectly fitting the atmosphere of the Addams Family. And on this key they played with double senses, humour, sounds and homomatopoeic suggestions, even inventing other words and expressions, such as "horrorific", "my ugliness", "bad morning", "my bittermistress". And the result was better than I expected.  
Enjoy the reading and forgive the mistakes...

### THE ADDAMS FAMILY.

Gomez enters the living room, bringing with him Seventeen, quietly. They close the door, Gomez takes her hands passionately.

Gomez: "oh, my lovely, horrorific Darling !"

Seventeen: "oh my Gomez! You're the best nightmare I can do in my darkful nights!"

They hug each other

Gomez: "I've got something for you, ugliness"

Seventeen: " Really? What is it?"

Gomez takes out the cut roses

Seventeen: oh dear! They're simply horrible !! Did you cut them for me ?"

Gomez: "Only for you, my bittermistress!"

Gomez is starting to give her the roses, when Morticia enters.

Morticia: "Oh you! You sucking, faggot impostor! how could you do this to me ??...ah, I'll make you cry, horrible creeping worm!"

She comes threatening closer to him.

Gomez: "oh no, no, my only disgusting honey, no! It's not as it seems! I cut personally these roses for you, only for you, ugliness!"

He gives her the flowers

Morticia: "ooh, shut up, idiot! Do you think I'm blind?? I'm not stupid !! ooh we're done!! I'll make you feel sooo sorry for this! It's a promise !

Gomez: "oh no, no Morticia... Morticia pleeeeeease!!"

Gomez begins to run in a circle followed by Morticia, he falls twice on his own feet.

Seventeen: "oh, run, run my Gomez! Ouch no! stand up, stand up dear !! Don't let this witch catch you..."

Morticia: "WITCH ??? DEAR?? GOMEEEEZ! If I put my hands on you, I'll reduce you in a mountain of blood!"

At the same time, enters Wednesday and her friend Friday.

Wednesday: "Good DIE Mum, good DIE Dad." (she seems as if she doesn't realize the situation, she begins to thrust some pins, taken by Friday, in a little doll.)

Friday: " Good MOURNING, Mr and Mrs Addams. How do you do? Oh, Wednesday, let me play too !"

Wednesday: "uff, you're very annoying. Be careful, Friday, Susie doesn't have to die until... Ehm, let's see... tomorrow afternoon! She has only to suffer..."

She gives Wednesday the doll.

Friday: "Don't worry, I'll make her enjoy this night ..ihihihih" (laughs)

Morticia: " good MOURNING girls. Who is this Susie?"(keeping running)

Wednesday: "oh just a girl from school"

Friday: " We're torturing her."(smiling)

Morticia: " oh well done, babies!"

Seventeen: "oh you seem so pretty today, Morticia! So vital... In fact, I think that your hair is becoming blond... ooh, so cute!"

Morticia stops, horrified.

Morticia: "a mirror! A mirror, Now !

Wednesday

Morticia: "My hair..My wonderful black hair... Ah, it's false! Ah, stupid chicken...!

She comes closer to her.

Morticia: "You stole my husband, honey. Now ,I'll steal your worthless life "!

Seventeen: "You? ahahah, don't make me laugh, beauty ! you're insignificant ! Your husband loves ME, face it !"

Morticia: "ooh, I love you !

Morticia attacks her, they begin to scratch each other and to pull their hair.

Friday: "Ooh, fun! I'll bet 10 dollars on the stupid mistress!"

Wednesday: (To Morticia) "Mmh, I'll bet on you, mother". (To Friday) "She's very angry!"

Uncle Fester enters drunk(stuggerring)

Uncle.Fester: "ahahahah! Merry Christmas! Ester Eve !la la la so la la laa !"

Wednesday "Look! Uncle Fester is drunk ! Ahaha, this is even more funny than I expected!

Friday: "Make him fall, make him fall!"

She leans out and makes him fall while he sings and dances

Uncle.Fester: "happyyyy...shalalà, it's so nice to be happy! Shalalà, every body

should be ha...aaaargh! ooh, cute, cute rabbit!"

He falls and swings

Wednesday and Friday: "ahahahah, poor uncle Fester !"

Gomez: "Girls, don't bother the poor Fester! He's not in himself..."

Wednesday: "Daddy, the unfaithfulness has made you become kind ??"

Wednesday and Friday, giggling loudly. At the same times Morticia and Seventeen keep beating

Uncle Fester: "Mmm, no no no no. It's not fair! C'mon, Peace and love, peace and love girls..."

He tries to separate them.

Seventeen and Morticia: "Shut up you, idiot !"

Uncle Fester: "Ouch ! Alright, alright..."

Morticia: "Well.. where were we??"

Seventeen: "Ehm.. don't remember..."

Morticia and Seventeen: "oh, yeah!"

They start again to pull their hair

Morticia: Festeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeer! Keep her , keep her! I'm not in the mood..."

Uncle Fester : "twinkle twinkle little star...(gawking)oh her...what? O for sure, for sure...keep her...mmm.. I got her ! I got her.. her ronf ! (he falls asleep )

Morticia: "Fester... Fester?! DAMN!"

Wednesday e Friday starting stinging him

Wednesday: "ahahahah, oh... his smell, it's horrible

Friday: "ahahahah...I can't stop laughin! Muahuahah poor Fester !

Gomez comes closer to Morticia and hugs her

Gomez: "please, oh my deadly dear Morticia, forgive me... I'm so sorry... You're my only love! I'm begging you down on my knees!"

Morticia: "mmmm..maybe.. maybe I can forgive you.. maybe.. but if you promise that you'll take me to that new human restaurant in Paceville "

Gomez "sure, my only one"

Seventeen looks at them, upset

Seventeen: "ooh damn you!" (she brakes a vase on his head)

Gomez: "Ouuch!" (he falls down)

Uncle Fester wakes up

Uncle Fester (looking at Seventeen) "ooh what a horribiliant vision...oh..."

Seventeen: "Oh Fester!"

They look at each other in the eyes and they approach to kiss each other.

U. Fester and Seventeen : "I've finally found my half "

Explosion, a sound of steps

All: "What's that?"

Seventeen: oh, it's my husband (everybody looks at one another)

ALL: "oh no, not again !"

THE END!!

#### AN ALTERNATIVE HALLOWEEN

Uncle Fester and Lerch have a secret passion.  
It's Halloween and they are guillotining each other in the kitchen.

Uncle Fester: Oh Lerch! Come here and guillotine me, my love!

Lerch: Which part do you want me to cut first?

Uncle Fester: Shut up! And start to cut me!

Gomez and Morticia enter:

Morticia: Oh! I didn't expect you were alone!

Gomez: Sorry! We've come just for a finger Bloody Mary cocktail!

Morticia: Although, for dinner is coming my aunt, Penny. She's my most hated aunt, so stay calm and be just a little scaring.

\*\*"Dlin-Dlon"\*\*\* Lerch opens the door. Aunt Penny enters.

Lerch: Badcome Penny.

Aunt Penny: Lerch! You're the tallest and the worst Frankenstein I've ever seen!

Lerch: Thank you madame. You're hatefully sweet.

Penny comes at dinner.

Wednesday: Aunt Penny you're here, I'm so glad-sad.

Aunt Penny: Where's your sister?

Wednesday: She's gone to Ireland.. there are many discoteques!

Aunt Penny: So sweet!

Gomez: Penny, How is your burying job? How is it going?

Aunt Penny: It's fantastic! I bury 20 people every day! I also met a new friend, Caronte! He's so scaring hot!

Everyone starts to eat when Thriller music starts.

Morticia: What's this sound?

Gomez: What is going on? Oh no! Listen to the door sound! Oh my, it's the end!

Enter Michael Jackson. He starts dancing.

Michael: Oh, Pugsley, my little boy, come here with me!

Morticia: oh no Pugsley! (to Michael) and don't bother our children!!!

Created By: Mattia Landro, Beatrice Giannotti, Davide Di Bartolomeo, Pietro Alvisini, Marco Giusti e con la gentile collaborazione di Germana Carone.

Starring: Mattia Landro e Pietro Alvisini

Cast:

Uncle Fester as Mattia Landro

Lerch as Davide di Bartolomeo

Morticia as Beatrice Giannotti

Gomez as Marco Giusti

Michael Jakson as Pietro Alvisini

Uncle Penny as Germana Carone

Wednesday as unknown

Gomez's mother left in heritage, to her nephews, all of her properties. The happiness of Wednesday and Pugsley failed when at their home arrived a secret brother: Lucky

Lucky: "Good Morning"

Fester: "What?... However, bad morning! Who are you?"

Lucky: "Nice to meet you... I'm Lucky"

Fester: "I'm sorry for you! But... What's your name?!"

Lucky: "My name is Lucky, Sir. I'm here because yesterday I knew about the death of our..."

Fester: "Our?"

Lucky: "... Our relative! My grandma!

Fester: "Why the hell are you using "our", "my"..."

Lucky: "It's very simple: I'm Gomez's son!"

Fester: "What are you saying?!? (shouting) GOMEEEEEZ!! There is a little... A little... Boy, here; he's supposing to be your son... He's called Sadness... Ehm.. Desperate..."

Lucky: "Lucky, Sir."

Fester: "Oh, yes, I remember... He's called L...Lucky!"

Gomez: "Let him in..."

Lucky comes in and finds Gomez talking to his sons, Wednesday and Pugsley.

Gomez: "Hi, my dear (to Lucky)! Ehm... What are you doing here?!?"

Lucky: "I'm here to take my part of grandma's heritage!"

Gomez: "Oh yes, got it... So, in the meantime, why don't you walk into that door? It's my sons' room! Your brothers!"

Lucky: "Oh, yes Sir! I'll be pleased to meet them!"

Gomez: "Yeah, I think so... (he says that with a "satanic" smile)"

Lucky goes into the room and he finds Wednesday and Pugsley.

Lucky: "Hi, my dear brother and sister! I'm very pleased to meet you!"

W&P: "(together) Worried to meet you too!"

Wednesday: "We know you're here to take your part of the heritage... Aren't you?"

Lucky: "Sure!"

Wednesday: "Well... But (with the same satanic smile) we aren't sure you're our brother!"

Lucky: "What are you talking about?!"

Wednesday: "You got it... So you have to show it to us!"

Lucky: "How?"

Pugsley: "We'll test you: We'll check your cruelty... Ehm... Your intelligence"

Lucky: "What shall I do?"

Wednesday: "Sit on this chair please, it will... Check if you're as us"

Lucky sits on the chair and he has an electroshock

Lucky: "Aaaah! What the hell was that?"

Pugsley: "It's just the beginning... (With the same satanic smile)"

Lucky: "Are you crazy???"

Wednesday: "If you want to use this word..."

Lucky: "Oh, I remember that I have an important meeting (shy)! I've got to go... See you soon...."

W&P: "(together) See you... Later... Much later..."

Lucky goes away, Wednesday and Pugsley go to their father.

Gomez: "I'm proud of you, my sons, great "malefic" job!"

W&P: "(together) Thanks Dad!"

Gomez: "I don't think he will come anymore..."

W,P&G: (laugh)

2ND NOVEMBER'S HORRIFIC PARTY.

It is the second of November, big party at Addams' castle.

GOMEZ: Querida, today you are happier than usual. Has the cat died?

MORTICIA: Lerch poured the coffee on me.

GOMEZ: That's why today you are sweeter than a rotten corpse. Anyway, have you seen Wednesday?

(BOOM!)

GOMEZ: What's up?

(Pugsley enter with a broken leg).

PUGSLEY: Wednesday shot me with a cannon. I fell on Hand. I think he is a little angry.

(Lurch enter with Hand, hurt, middle finger in plaster).

GOMEZ: Oh, Hand, don't worry, you'll be ok soon. Uncle Fester!!!

(Fester enter with a knife in the leg).

FESTER (laughing): Ah, ah, ah! I was playing with knives with Grandma. Ah, ah, ah!

GOMEZ: Why are you laughing?

FESTER: She is a little bit hurt. She's lost her head... Ah, ah, ah!

GOMEZ: Oh, my "Gold"! Anyway, have you invited all people for the party?

FESTER: Oh, yes, yes! The best 2nd November ever seen! I called Frankenstein, Voldemort, Shrek, The Count Dracula, ET, Viti, Sulley, Boogeyman, The Undertaker, Casper, ITT Cousin, Silvio Berlusconi, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, The Seven Dwarfs, Mike Bongiorno, Marco Masini, Gene Gnocchi, Prince Charles, Mickey Mouse.

GOMEZ: Who are all these people?

FESTER: The best Monsters in the world!

AUTHORS: MARTINA MARCAZZAN, FRANCESCO FAZZI, SIMONE PANDOLFI, JACOPO RICCIARDI, MATTEO CORIGLIONI.

THE HAND

It's a summer afternoon and Pugsley and Wednesday don't know what to do, so they decide to "have fun", but they don't know how.

Pugsley: Let's have some fun!

The children decide to have fun hurting their neighbour, so they bind him on a table and...

Neighbour: Aaah!!!  
Pugsley: Wow! That's amazing!  
Wednesday: Pugs! We've just cut him a hand!  
Pugsley: Wow!!  
Wednesday: Let's give it a name!  
Pugsley: The Thing?  
Wednesday: No! It's terrible! Why don't we just call it "Hand"?  
Pugsley: Hand? Why not?  
Wednesday: Ok! Why shouldn't we take it at home and show it to the rest of the family?  
Pugsley: Ok! Let's go!

They goes at home and leave the neighbour on the table...

Wednesday: Hey Mum! Dad! All of you! Come here!  
Pugsley: We have something to show you!  
Wednesday: Yes! Something amazing!

The rest of the family arrives

Morticia: What's going on guys?  
Gomez: Have you killed any other spiders or dogs or frogs?  
Wednesday: No Dad! We want you to see this!  
Pugsley: ladies and gentlemen...here you are...Hand!  
Fester: Hand?? What is it?  
Pugsley: It's a hand, uncle Fester!  
Lurch: Hand? Where does it come from?  
Morticia: You didn't kill anybody, did you?  
Wednesday: ehm... not killed, just cut!

Children seem to cry

Pugsley:Mum, we can go to bring it back!  
Morticia: I don't know...Gomez, what do you think about it?  
Gomez:ehm...Let it stay!! It's a member of the family now!  
Wednesday & Pugsley:Really Dad? Can we keep Hand with us?  
Gomez: Of course!  
Pugsley: Wow! I always wanted to have a hand! Since I was young!

Wednesday looks at the brother!

THE HAND...EHM...END!

Written by:  
Giulia Di Felice  
Elena Cavaliere  
Alessandra Fazari  
Lorenzo Isola  
Lorenzo Pini

"The Addams family"

Scene n.1

Gomez: Good MOURNING my love! Today you are beautiful like a corpse at the beginning of its decomposition.  
Morticia: Oh thank you Gomez you're too bad  
Gomez: Where are you going my little bat of the forest?  
Morticia: Today I want to bring children to enjoy themselves...I thought at the cemetery near the home of Mrs Wood, where we know there are buried also his cats  
Gomez: Oh really!! Can I come with you?

Scene n.2

Pugsley: Wednesday, do you want to play "Hide and dead" with me?

Wednesday: Sure, it would be terrifying!

Pugsley: But don't hide grandma; the last time I found her behind the guillotine, and she wasn't even dead!

Wednesday: Well, so I am going to kill you and then hide you. When you will be rotten I will take you like seasoning for the turkey! Muhahah..

## EVALUATION.

At the end it was not easy to evaluate the students, because in group work you don't know precisely where the work of a person finishes or starts, but I monitored them to check their English and their creativity in action, I asked them to read, to explain their work and their feelings about it. I evaluated the whole of the work, because my first objective in this project was to make them write, communicate and enjoy, not to test them. Then I published their work on the site of the school, on the English school magazine and they also prepared a poster for my poster session of 2008. The students did not perform but short parts in class, because the project lasted longer than we expected: two weeks only for writing, then it was difficult to meet after school to learn by heart the parts and for rehearsals. But they performed while reading and I also considered this aspect for evaluation.

## CONCLUSION.

It is true that the use of creative strategies engages us teachers in a further work (with the great amount of work we already do). We often hear discontent about this profession. Many students do not deserve our efforts. Everything true. But there is a choice to make: if we want to be good teachers or not. If we want to form people (and the responsibility is heavy), to help them grow and to change their lives. The choice is clear and we cannot escape. And we don't know if we are going to succeed, but it is worth trying...