

**Etwinning
project**

How about some Salmon?



The extraordinary case of Greek national poet
Dionysios Solomos

Collaborative etwinning project 2017-2018

Greek and Italian students examined the extraordinary case of Greek born- Italian educated national poet of Greece , Dionysios Solomos.

The extraordinary case of Greek national poet Dionysios Solomos

About the project

In the school year 2017-2018 Italian and Greek students of primary and secondary schools co-operated in an etwinning project to explore the extraordinary case of the Greek national poet Dionysios Solomos (1798- 1857) .

The poet , whose “ Hymn to Freedom “ is the National Anthem of Greece , got his education in Italy, in Cremona, one of the partner cities. He wrote poems in Italian first , then in Greek, lived in both countries and got influenced by both cultures.

Students consequently explored the historic- social - educational conditions of the time as well. Emphasis was put on the fact that after being deported from his homeland and despite difficulties , he got adjusted and was included in a different society/ culture than his own. This resulted in the fruitful merging of cultures, languages and influences that produced his unique poetic work.

The schools

- Liceo Statale delle Scienze Umane “S. Anguissola”, Cremona (Cr) Italy
- 3rd High School of Oraiokastros, Oraiokastros, Thessaloniki Greece
- 5th Lyceum of Veria, Veria Greece
- ICS Cremona Uno, Cremona (Cr) Italy

Aims

By finding out about the early and mature years of the poet , his travels between Italy and Greece , his family situation, his education and work , students not only get to know more about the national poet of Greece but also about the historic-social - cultural conditions of the time that affected the young poet and resulted in his work. Students also compared relevant conditions now and then . Students thought critically about the notion of “ inclusion ” that is relevant not only to the case of Solomos but is also a contemporary issue.

Finally , the aim was for the students to become aware of the inter- temporal proximity and correlation of the two cultures, Italian and Greek .

Work Process

The partner schools agreed on the outline of the project.

Students enrolled in the etwinning platform that is provided for purposes of education and collaboration to European schools .

Students and teachers presented themselves in twinspace and through video conferences.

Thematic groups were formed to explore the life of Solomos on the following areas :

Childhood years in Zakynthos, Greece.

School years in Italy , Venice, Cremona.

The poet and his work.

All groups took under consideration the historic - social - cultural - educational conditions of the time (early 19th century) in both countries and compared them to contemporary ones.

Students researched historic archives and attended lectures given to them by experts on the subject.

After being presented to Solomos’ life and work they got inspired and drew the poet’s portrait and his coat of arms.

They also created their own poems based in his themes and notions and by “putting themselves in his shoes ” they wrote the poet’s diary and his letters to his mother while he was away. Students and teachers displayed their work on twinspace and while collaborating established friendships and relationships.

The project ended in the best possible way with the meeting of all partners in Cremona to follow the traces of the poet in the city.

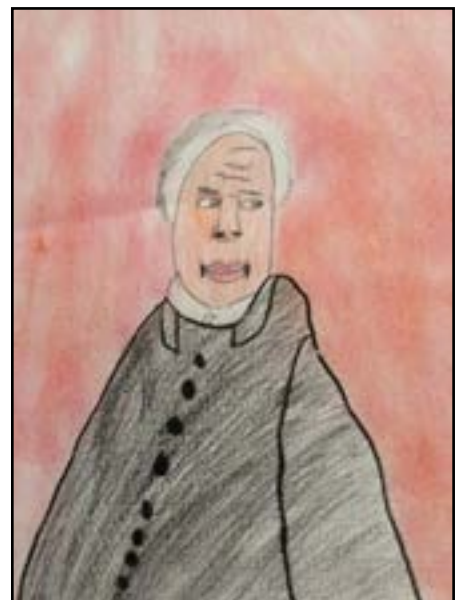
Honor was paid to the Lyceum that educated the young boy from Zakynthos – Greece called Dionysios Solomos that later wrote such great poems as to become the national poet of Greece.

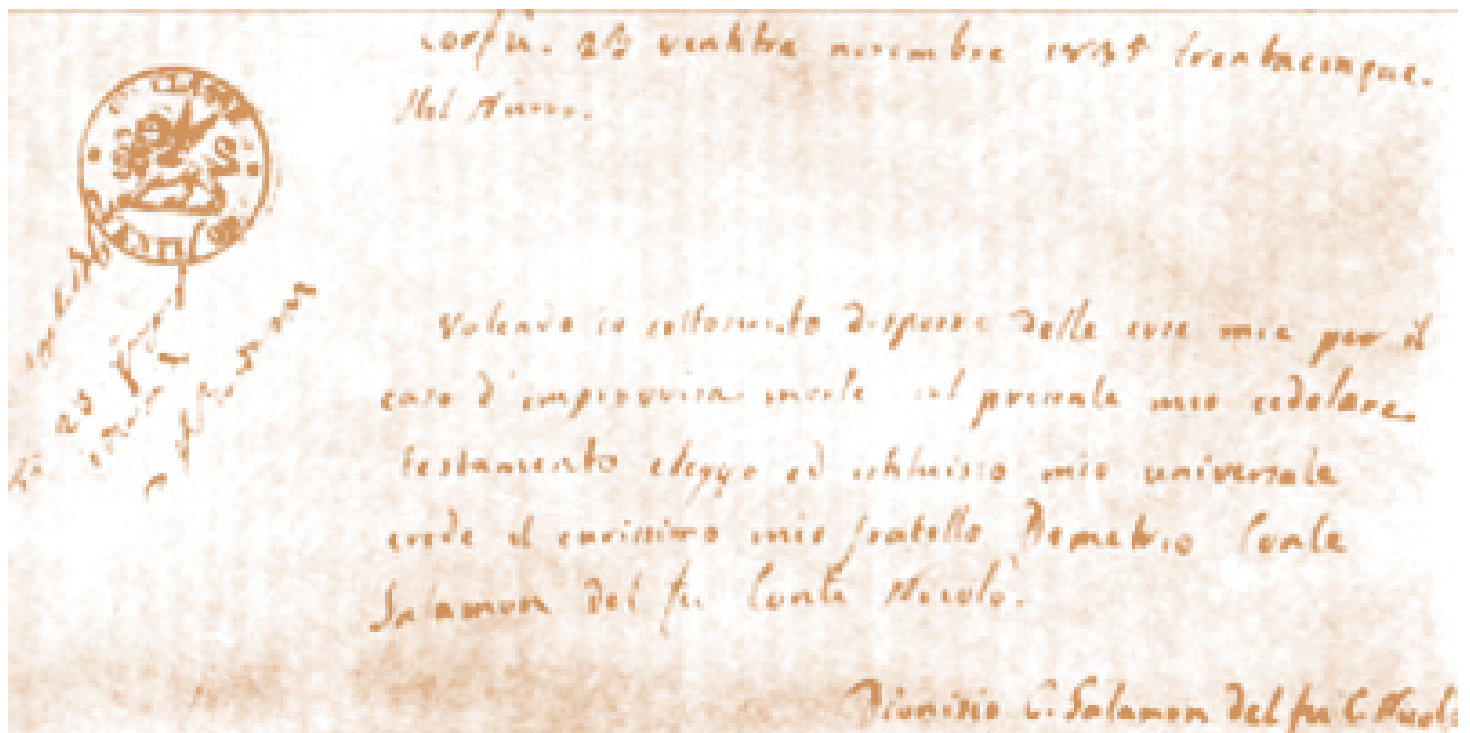
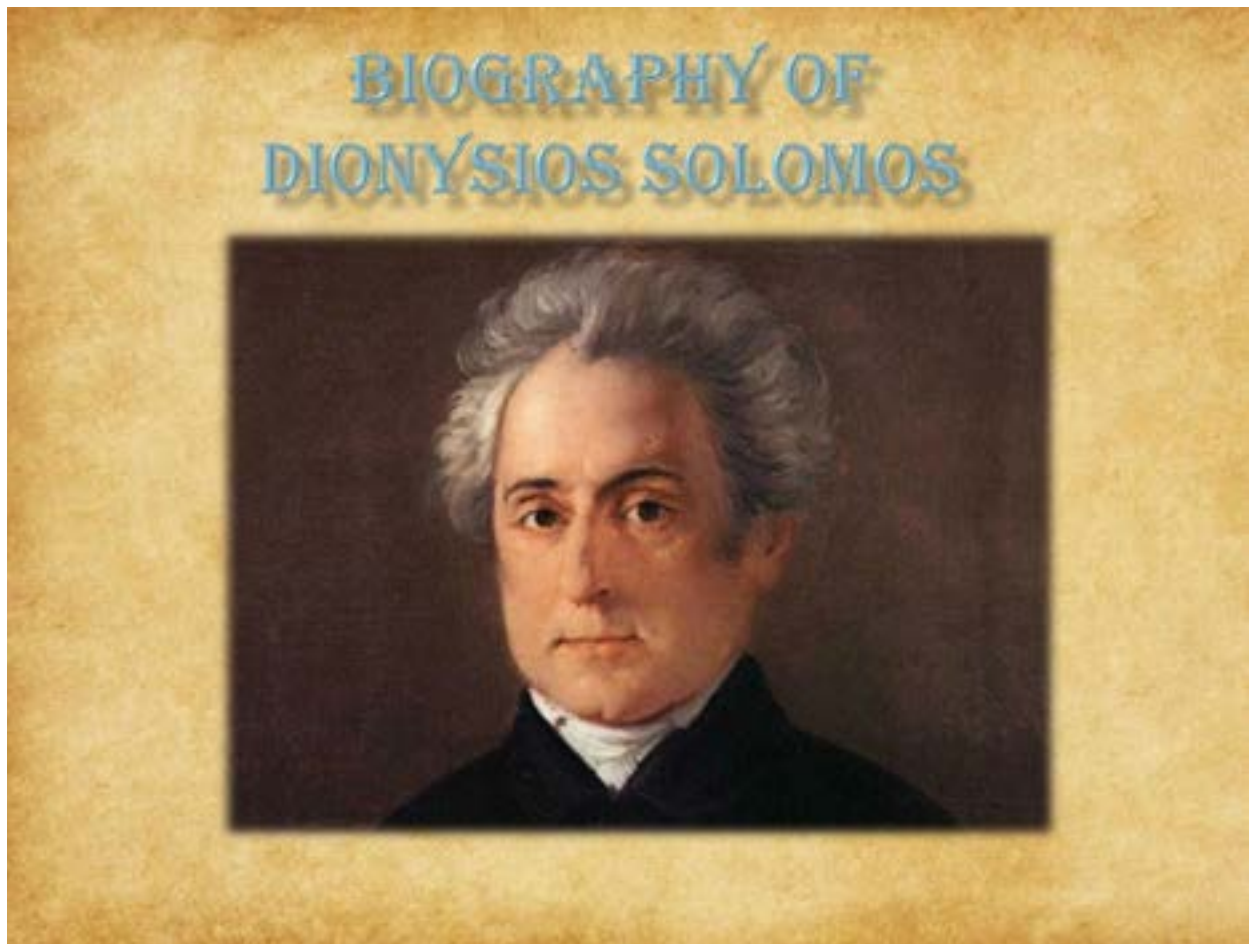


Portraits of the poet drawn by younger students



Portraits of the poet drawn by younger students





The extraordinary case of Greek national poet Dionysios Solomos

Solomos, the national poet of Greece, was born in the Ionian island of Zakynthos. The Ionian islands during the 18th and 19th century belonged for different periods to the French, the English and the Venecians. As a result we have the fascinating paradox of Dionysios Solomos who although was born Greek, had French then English and later Italian citizenship. He spoke Italian most of his early years and eventually became a great romantic poet writing in Greek.



- His mother was a 15 year old maid working for a 60 year old aristocrat. An out of marriage affair like that was not uncommon at the time. Solomos, an illegitimate child, lived in his father's house where Italian was spoken but learnt the common Greek language from his mother.



Dionysios Solomos when he was a baby and his father Nicolaos Solomos

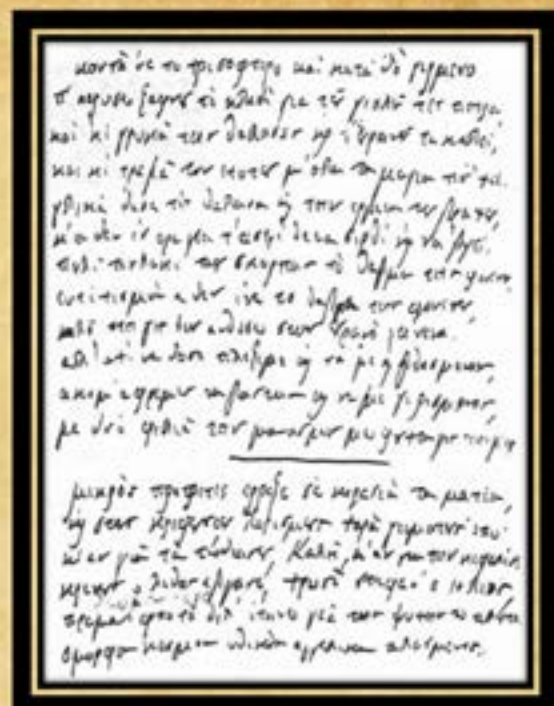
- The first teachers of Solomos were priests. His father at the age of 70, just one day before he dies, marries his mother and so recognizes Solomos as his legitimate child.




During the second decade of his life, Solomos is in Italy. At the age of 10 he is sent to Venice, to Santa Katarina College, accompanied by Don Santo Rossi, his Italian teacher from Cremona. Far away from home and his mother, Solomos lived for ten years in Venice, Pavia, Cremona and Milan. He attended the Lycuem of Cremona and started writing his first poems in Italian. Later he was a law student at the university of Pavia and he frequently sent letters to his mother. He expressed his love, sent his regards, asked her to take care but also asked to secretly borrow small amounts of money.



- Solomos was not really interested in law but in literature. Students of that time were encouraged to write poems, so he does write in Italian, belongs to literary clubs where he meets Italians poets and is highly estimated by them. During the crucial early years of his life Solomos is shaped by the Italian language, culture, society.
- A Cremona road, near the park where he used to stroll, carries his name.



Greece is under Ottoman occupation, there is no organized educational system. Solomos was educated in Italy but learned Greek from his mother. It was the language of the common people, the language of lullabies and tradition. So, when Solomos returns to Zakynthos, he connects with his roots again and writes popular poems that became songs.



The National Anthem of Greece.

ΜΗΝΟΣ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑΝ
ΕΞ ΉΝΕΡΙΖΩ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΚΟΨΗ
ΤΗΥ ΣΤΑΘΙΟΥ ΤΗΝ ΤΡΟΜΕΡΗ
ΕΞ ΉΝΕΡΙΖΩ ΤΗΝ ΕΨΗ
ΠΟΥ ΜΕ ΒΙΑ ΜΕΤΡΑΕΙ ΤΗ Ή.

ΑΠ' ΤΑ ΚΟΚΑΛΑ ΒΓΑΛΜΕΝΗ
ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΤΑ ΙΕΡΑ
ΚΑΙ ΕΑΝ ΠΡΩΤΑ ΑΝΔΡΕΙΩΜΕΝΗ
ΧΑΪΡΕ Ω ΧΑΪΡΕ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ!


ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΣ
ΣΟΛΩΜΟΣ

Hymn To Freedom
Lead-sheet

Initial key: G#m - 3/4

Dear Mother

The Greek people's fight for independence inspires Solomos who in the same way as Dante would like to express through language the soul of his people. In 1823, in just one month, the 25 year old Solomos completed the 158 verses of the Hymn to Freedom. The Hymn first appeared in parallel text, Greek-Italian, then was translated into French and English. It was accepted with positive reviews. It was not only the first great poem written in the modern Greek language but it is considered a great European poem about freedom.



Dionysios Solomos original diary

Dionysios Solomos original diary

23 Νοεμβρίου 1808,

Σε λίγες μέρες, με τον δάσκαλο μου θα μετακομίσουμε στην Ιταλία. Μου είπε πως εγώ θα μείνω στην Βενετία, ενώ εκείνος στην Κρεμόνα και αγχώνομαι λίγο για αυτό. Ελπίζω να τα πάω καλά στο σχολείο, να κάνω φίλους και να μάθω εύκολα τη γλώσσα. Αν και θα μου λείψει η Ζάκυνθος και όλα εδώ αλλά ίσως εκεί να είναι καλύτερα.

In a few days, my teacher and I are going to move to Italy. He told me I will live in Venice and he will live in Cremona so I'm kind of nervous about that. I hope I will be a good student at my new school, have friends and learn the new language easily. Even though I'll miss Zakynthos and everything, maybe it's better there.



Young Solomos

Ημερολόγιο του Διονύσιου Σολωμού
1818

Πέρασαν χρόνια από τότε που έφυγα από την πατρίδα μου ... Την Ελλάδα. Παιδί ήμουν τότε. Αλλά ποτέ μου δεν την ξέχασα. Τον πόνο της, τα καμένα σπίτια και τα χαμένα όνειρα. Την ασταμάτητη διαμάχη της, που πνίγεται. Αλλά παρόλο αυτά, την αναλλοίωτη δίψα της για ελευθερία. Εγώ δεν μπόρεσα να βοηθήσω πολύ από εδώ, αλλά εκεί θα προσπαθήσω . Θα προσπαθήσω να κάνω τα λόγια μου να αγγίξουν τις καρδιές όλων . Να ξυπνήσω την ελπίδα για ελευθερία. Γιατί η επανάσταση είναι ο μόνος τρόπος να κερδίσουμε τον πόλεμο. Αύριο επιστρέφω Ελλάδα μου...

Diary of Dionysios Solomos
1818

It's been years since I left my home... Since I left Greece. I was a child back then. But I have never forgotten my country , the pain, the burned houses and the lost dreams. The unstoppable struggle, which is being suppressed. But yet, the unchangeable thirst for freedom. I could not help much from here, but there I will try. I will try to make my words touch the hearts of all. To awaken the hope for freedom. Because revolution is the only way to win this war. Tomorrow I am returning home , back to Greece...

Diary written by students

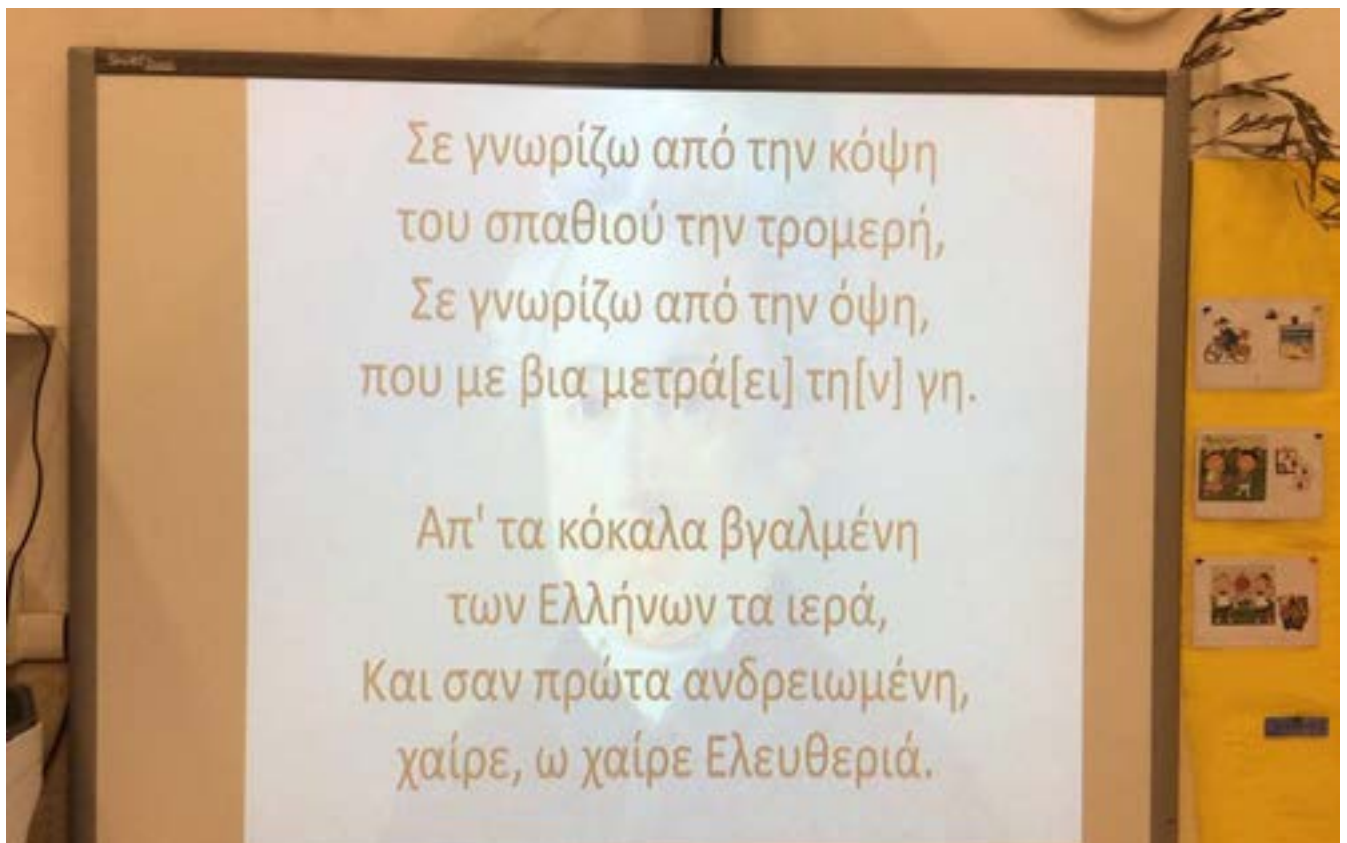
Diary written by students

Dear diary,

.... And here I am, in Cremona. Everything here is new for me. I knew that I'll face difficulties in adjusting to this new way of life, for example, in the school; how to form new friendships and certainly learn the Italian language. Oh my goodness!! I feel so nervous and anxious about my new beginning, especially because I don't have my family by my side. I really miss my mum. I miss her smile and her sparkly eyes. But that doesn't matter! I have to stay concentrated. I have a purpose of being here and that is to make both my country and my family proud. I'll try my best to show to every single person the history that my country holds through my poems. I'll become better than the rest. I know that it'll be hard but I won't give up. But I have one more desire that burns inside of me; I want to return one day back home, back to a country where everyone will be able to express themselves freely without being afraid...

Dear diary, it's been a few weeks since the last time I wrote here.

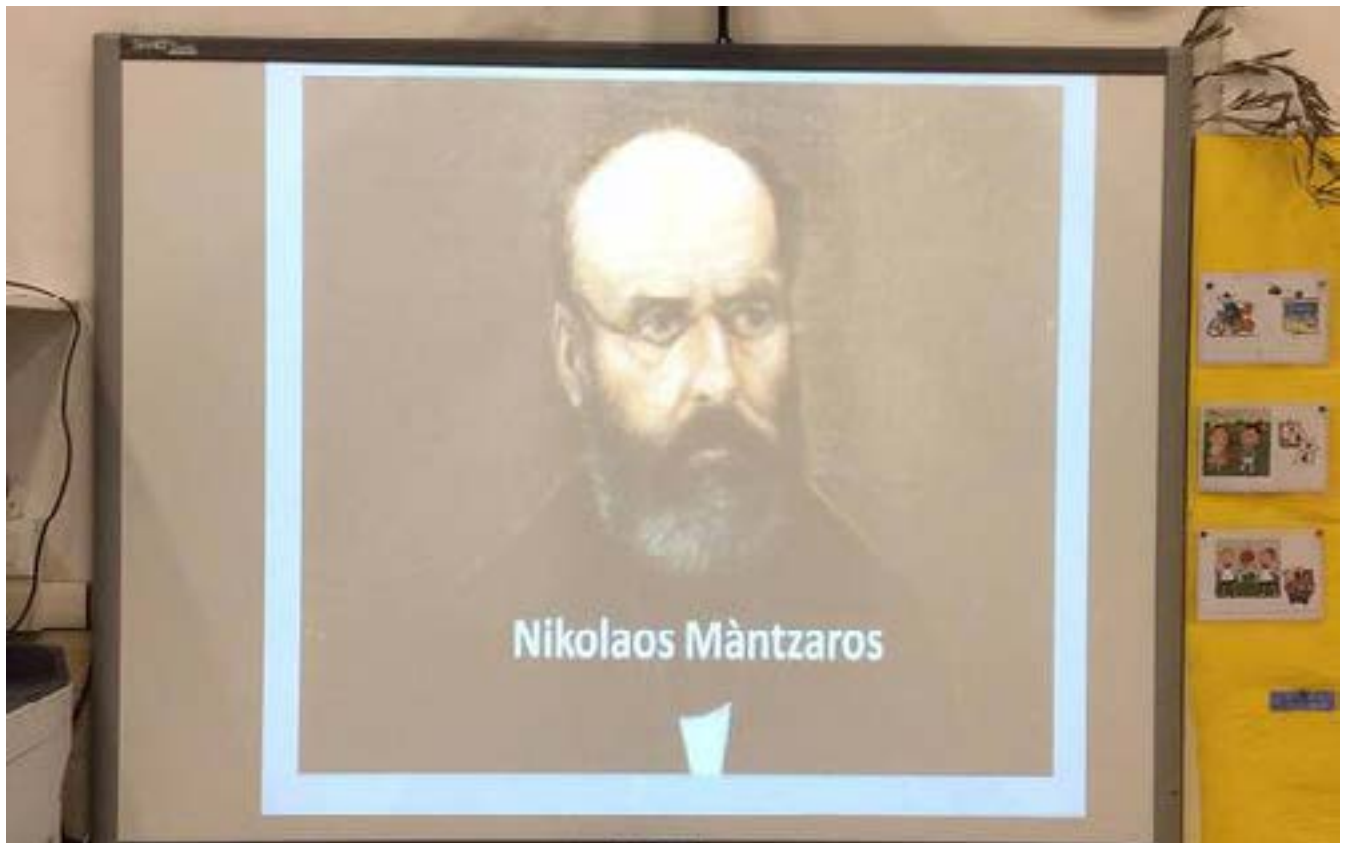
Two months have passed since I left Greece and I have already missed my country and my family. I have been trying to adapt and I have to admit that I have made quite a lot of progress. I have made quite a few friends since all the kids here are very friendly. I am really fond of literature; there is something about it that truly inspires me. Cremona is fairly small, however its beauty compensates for its size. The Italian culture and the people's habits have really amazed me. My school in Cremona is nothing like the one in Venice. Here, the teachers are friendly and welcoming, whereas in Venice my teachers were strict and demanding. Not only that, but also the school here has many more facilities. For a week or two I have been participating in a literature team, where we write not only stories but also poems. When writing poems my inspiration is freedom and nature. However, my last poem was inspired by a girl I like. What I love about her is the fact that she is really kind and easy-going. Anyways it's really late at night and tomorrow I have to wake up early to go to school so that's all for now.



Hymn to Freedom - The Greek National Anthem written by Dionysios Solomos



The extraordinary case of Greek national poet Dionysios Solomos



Nikolaos Mantzaros – the composer of the Greek National Anthem



Ο Εθνικός Ύμνος

Σε γνωρίζω από την κόψη
Του σπαθιού την τρομερή,
Σε γνωρίζω από την όψη
Που με βιά μετράει τη γη.
Απ' τα κόκκαλα βγαλμένη
Των Ελλήνων τα ιερά
Και σαν πρώτα ανδρειωμένη
Χαίρε, ω χαίρε Ελευθεριά!
Και σαν πρώτα ανδρειωμένη
Χαίρε, ω χαίρε Ελευθεριά!
Και σαν πρώτα ανδρειωμένη
Χαίρε, ω χαίρε Ελευθεριά!

The Greek National Anthem

I know you by the dreadful
edge of the sword,
I know you by the gaze
that measures the land with force.
Born from the sacred
bones of the Greeks
and brave as in the old times
Hail, oh hail, Liberty!
And brave as in the old times
Hail, oh hail, Liberty!
And brave as in the old times
Hail, oh hail, Liberty!

Ελεύθεροι Πολιορκημένοι (β' σχεδίασμα-αρχή)

Άκρα του τάφου σιωπή στον κάμπο βασιλεύει.
Λαλεί πουλί, παίρνει σπυρί, κι η μάνα το ζηλεύει.
Τα μάτια η πείνα εμαύρισε· στα μάτια η μάνα μνέει·

Στέκει ο Σουλιώτης ο καλός παράμερα και κλαίει:
«Έρμο τουφέκι σκοτεινό, τι σ' έχω γω στο χέρι;
Οπού συ μου 'γινες βαρύ κι ο Αγαρηνός το ξέρει».

Ο Απρίλης με τον Έρωτα χορεύουν και γελούνε,
Κι όσ' άνθια βγαίνουν και καρποί τόσ' άρματα σε κλειούνε.

The Free Beleaguered (Act II- Beginning)

The silence reigns in the greenhill beyond the burial ground.
The bird speaks, takes a seed, and the mother is jealous of it.
The famine blackened the eyes. The mother is swearing onto the eyes.

The good soldier from Souli stands aside and cries:
“Lone dark rifle, why do I hold you in the arm,
where you became heavy for me and the Muslim knows it?”

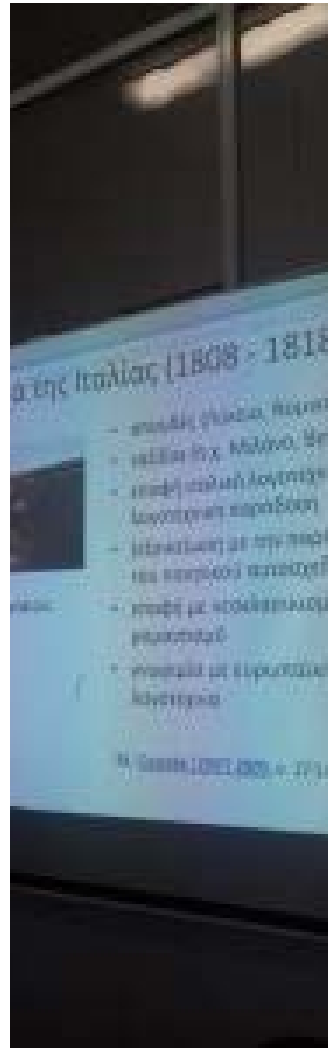
April and Cupid are dancing and laughing together,
and as many blossoms and cores come out, so many weapons enclose you.

Student poem inspired by Solomos poetry

Αν ήταν η ομορφιά κλωστή, το μίλημα αδράχτι θα έβλεπες
ξένε την πνοή να ζωντανεύει από στάχτη
Τα λευκά της χέρια να κινεί, να λύνει και να δένει και η φωνή
από τον κατάσπρο λαιμό σαν άνεμος να βγαίνει
‘Κόσμε σκληρέ που μου ‘δωσες πνεύμα σαν χελιδόνι
Βγάλε στη φύση την ψυχή και το κορμί στ’ αλώνι’
Ακούει ο τάφος τη φωνή από τη γη να βγαίνει
Κόρη ψηλή, κλωστή ψιλή να δένει
Σαν ρόδο κόκκινο βαρύ που στο σπαθί πεθαίνει.
Αν ήταν ο παράδεισος ευχή δικός του ο θάνατος κλειδί
Φαρμάκι θα σε κέρναγα να φύγουμε μαζί.

*If beauty were a thread, and voice were a spindle
Oh Stranger you could see breath coming alive from the ashes
Moving her pale hands, calling the shots
The voice from her white neck coming off like the wind
‘Cruel world that gave me the spirit of a swallow
Give my soul to nature and my body to an open space
Grave listens to a voice that comes beneath our feet,
Tall daughter, binding her short string
Like the heavy red rose killed by the sword.
Were heaven a wish with death being its key
I would give you poison to get away with me.*





The original coat of arms of the Solomos family



Coat of arms students drew



MEMBERS

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B. Solomòs.