

IX Edizione

Le Vie d'Europa – Sui passi di un autore

Mary Shelley "Who was I? What was I? Whence did I come? What was my destination?"

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PRIMO CLASSIFICATO SEZIONE INGLESE

"LOOKING FOR A READER – THE MODERN CREATURE"

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Delle Classi I CM, I DM, II AM, II BM

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Motivazione: *An original idea and presentation, showing commendable interdisciplinary work. Appropriate collocations, showing naturalness in language.*

L'elaborato si basa su una idea molto originale. La presentazione, accattivante e impeccabile, è artistica e non solo in senso letterale. Arte e Inglese si uniscono infatti per dare forma a un testo "plastico" di pregevole fattura visiva e verbale: un diario incapsulato in una lattina di vernice. Il diario contiene un messaggio da un mondo futuro scritto come un avvertimento agli abitanti del presente affinché intervengano per evitare lo sfacelo umano e culturale a cui il mondo sembra condannato se non si ha il coraggio di cambiare direzione. Il diario diventa la metafora della ricerca di sé stessi, dell'esigenza di comunicazione, della insopprimibile necessità umana di stabilire delle relazioni con i propri simili. Autore del diario è una voce umana emarginata per la sua diversità e la sua diversità consiste nell'aver conservato intatte queste prerogative in una società che si è evoluta soffocandole con tutti i rischi che questo comporta per il futuro dell'umanità. L'elaborato è una profonda e al tempo stesso spontanea e vivace meditazione sui temi del romanzo di Mary Shelley: la ricerca della propria identità, l'accoglienza dell'altro, la responsabilità delle proprie azioni, l'incanto della natura e l'insidia della meccanicità della scienza. Un lavoro ottimo.

Dear Reader From the Past,

Forget about everything you have ever been taught. This is our diary. We have gathered information and sent it to the Past in a time capsule from our location in the space-time continuum. What you'll find here is related to the Future, yours and ours. In this world nature has been destroyed and human relations have been wiped out. In this diary we'll tell you exactly what you need to do in order to prevent this potential future from happening to you for real.

The Children of the Future

Dear diary,

After many years of being forced to live a boring, ordinary life controlled by machines, I don't even know who I am anymore, where I belong, and who loves me.

When I was born, I was an innocent creature. From that day, nothing has really changed. All I can remember is being brought into a dark room with millions of red, robotic flashing eyes glaring at me.

Wherever I go everyone stares at me in horror, I'm different. Don't worry fellow reader, I'll explain... Since I was a child, my classmates used to reject me, I was always picked last for videogame teams and they always called me D1ff3r3nt. Since then, I have always been called that, little did I know it meant "different".

I soon discovered that my parents also thought of me this way. They always criticized me and compared me to my classmates. Nobody understood me, was I the only one who knew the truth about this cruel world? Feeling abandoned by my own family and being a mistake, I ran away from home to an abandoned factory where I now live and am writing in this diary. It is the only friend I have, it has always helped me during my hardest situations and I hope it will be of great help to you as well.

No one in this whole world knows what love is (including me), we have all heard about it on the internet, nobody even knows what friends are or what family means.

Nowadays, people don't even speak to each other during the day, they don't physically play with each other, we are stuck in front of screens all day. Someone once told me that in the past people used to talk during dinner-time about their day, politics, opinions, secrets, all sorts of strange words that I don't know the meaning of. In my day, we all communicate with facebook, twitter and robot.com (although, I call it "Robbers.com" because they stole our lives).

I have recently met this boy who is collecting diaries. He revealed some precious information to me. He told me that he heard it all started with people wasting too much time on their electronic gadgets. Seeing humans being so foolish and weak, our robots saw the opportunity to take over the world, they saw that human brains were damaged and made rotten by videogames. That's when they decided to insert microchips into our useless brains as soon as we were born, but luckily it didn't work with mine because it isn't rotten and that's why I'm different.

I was also told that in the past people used to invite friends for play dates, to go on dates and go to school dances; what is dancing? I was told that people used to invite each other over for Christmas dinners and parties. What are they? Seriously, couldn't we have invented easier words?

In this world, as soon as the machines detect a mistake (like me) they hunt it down and eliminate it, as they did to the people who revealed all of this precious information to me. Reader, you are probably wondering why they killed them, and I myself find it quite curious. My answer is this... Robots, are very afraid that these "imposters," who are capable of causing a revolution against them and ending their power. In my case, they didn't because they thought my brain was too rotten to function properly. They misjudged me, as I'm now sending a warning to try to avoid this future from happening.

Recently, I have been thinking about the “Golden Days”, your days, and I realized that the robots taking over didn’t happen so long ago, very soon after your time. Lately I have been carrying around this old diary that I found in this same factory. Guess what? This factory used to produce books for bookstores! I immediately picked it up and flicked through the pages, it was empty! So now I’m filling it in and every day our friendship grows stronger. Soon i'll give these pages to the boy collecting testimonies about our world. I’m dying because of the lack of food here in this factory and with the energy left in my body, I am dedicating these words to you, dear reader. Dedicate your time to reading this, as I did writing it , don’t waste your intelligence and time, they’re precious, beware!

Dear Reader,

Here I am in your future, the world I live in is a disgrace. Remember this is your future world too, so I recommend that you read this carefully, if not your children will find the world miserable to live in.

Before I was born some scientists made robots to help the world, but it backfired. When the scientists first introduced the robots to the world everyone was happy, but then they took advantage of our weak minds and took over. Now I am trying to make the world a peaceful place to live in, but people need to help me do it. I've met a boy collecting information to send to the past, so i'm writing this to help him, and you.

In this world there is no natural beauty, there is only pollution and the bones of dead animals that have died due to the type of environment we live in.

The lakes have become contaminated and now they appear to be poisonous. Acid rain has caused this, as well killed the leaves on the trees, and therefore we have less oxygen. We have had to find other ways to obtain water, but our air becomes more toxic day by day.

The quality of the food is very poor, with little nutrition, so people become sick easily, and cancer has become like the common cold. Death is all around us.

There are very little fossil fuels, so petrol is very very expensive. We have cars but we don't use them because oil costs a lot. Many animals have become extinct, and others like cockroaches have grown to plague proportions.

We now have in the world small communities who live in the mountains and isolated areas. We have made very small not well built houses, and still we are alienated from each other. We only communicate through technology. We try to work but still we are going very slowly and soon our fuels will run out. Some of the jobs we have given people are harvesting energy from the crops to make diesel and finding objects in the world like solar panels and generators for power. Others work with crops and vegetables, and some with chickens and pigs, we have to be careful though because some animals can be contaminated.

React quickly and share the information in this letter before our world becomes this way. I have sent you this letter because I want to warn you about your future, beware of what could happen! One day I found this book in a drawer. The book was called The Lorax, by Dr Seuss. It is about a destroyed world like ours, and the greed and stupidity of people that led to this world. At the end of the book a small boy is given a seed, and told that he may be able to make the world better again. So we must do the same, keep planting seeds, and in a way this writing is a seed of thought for you.

Dear Reader From the Past,

If you do not follow our exact instructions, as they have been detailed and spelled out for you in our diary, the consequences will certainly be dire for you and for all mankind. Love won't be there anymore for anyone. Nature won't be able to provide any source of nurture for you. Friendships will disappear. Heed the greatness of the knowledge that I have bestowed upon you. Knowing the future from the past is not something I wish you would have been asked to submit to, but I do hope that you will be able to rein in the great powers that this knowledge will confer you, and fulfill your destiny. You will have to work out how to avert this disaster, which otherwise will hit you harshly in a way you can't even begin to imagine.

You are at grave risk!

Beware, children of the danger!

The Children of the Future

THIS blank page is for you dear Reader From The Past.

We have shared with you all our experiences, now it's your turn: you can write down here all the thoughts and questions arisen from what you have just read.

Are you really aware of what you have in your hands? What do you live for?

And have you ever wondered who you are?

Write your present NOW to REWRITE your future.