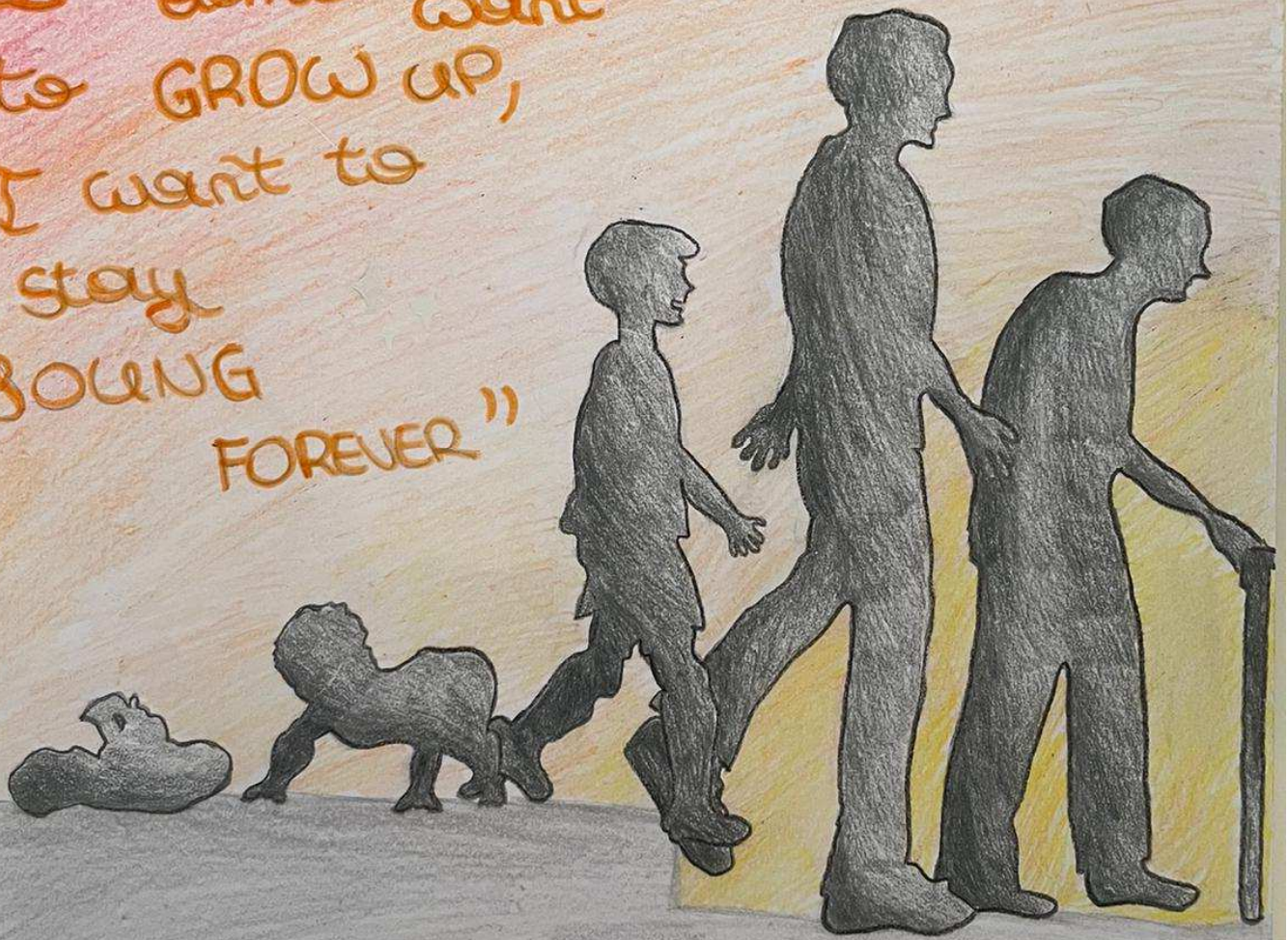


Reading in circle

"I don't want
to GROW UP,
I want to
stay
YOUNG
FOREVER"



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PREFACE

Noi alunni delle classi 2AL, 2CS, 2ALS, 1CLS e 1ASA dell'istituto Mazzini di Vittoria, insieme alla professoressa Belfiore del plesso Cannizzaro, abbiamo partecipato a un progetto chiamato "Reading in circle".

In questo progetto abbiamo letto due libri, il Ritratto di Dorian Gray e Peter Pan, e abbiamo lavorato a un elaborato finale che include un cartellone che sarà possibile vedere nella bacheca del nostro istituto e a un libro digitale contenente delle storie con il tema della "paura di crescere", scritte da noi alunni.

Inoltre anche la Prof.ssa Giuliana Salerno ha portato avanti il progetto con le classi 1CLS e 1ASA, trattando il tema dell'amore.

THE FEAR OF GROWING UP

The fear of growing up is the fear of many children, especially teenagers. If on the one hand you want to acquire greater freedom, on the other growing up is scary: greater responsibilities, university, work, the world seen with different eyes.

However, the fear of growing up can manifest itself in different ways, the most important being Peter Pan syndrome.

What is Peter Pan syndrome? Many adults are unable to take on the responsibilities that their age brings with it. This is known as Peter Pan syndrome. Peter Pan syndrome is a psychological term that describes a person who does not want to grow up and take on the responsibilities of adult life. These people tend to remain "immature" and infantile throughout their lives.

What causes it? Peter Pan syndrome occurs when a person fails to grow and remains stuck in childhood. People with this disorder often have difficulty relating to others, working and taking care of themselves. It can be caused by several factors, including spoiled childhood, abuse, childhood nostalgia, economic destitution and lack of skills for adult life..

People with Peter Pan syndrome often have difficulty engaging in long-term, stable relationships. They may be unable to hold a long-term job or care for themselves. These people may also have mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety and sleep disorders.

In summary, growth is a continuous and fundamental process for the human being, at whatever age one is called upon to carry it out: growing up means abandoning the comfort zone, the small securities to explore new horizons in the certainty of being accompanied to evolve and become autonomous and independent people.

GM

HAPPIER THAN EVER

Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, there was a girl named Dahlia. She was seventeen years old. And everyone in the village told her that she was on the verge of adulthood. But Dahlia didn't want to grow up. While her friends talked about jobs, weddings and responsibilities, the young girl dreamed of staying young forever, of living every day as an endless adventure.

One day, while walking in the woods, the young lady met an old woman with a mysterious air about her. The snow-white-haired woman with bright eyes like stars smiled at her and said, "I know what you want, Dahlia. You want to stay young forever."

The girl, replied in surprise: "Yes, it is true. I do not want to grow up and face the adults' responsibilities. I want to live freely and happily just as I am now."

The old woman handed her a small crystal bottle filled with golden liquid. "This is the elixir of eternal youth. Drink only a drop, and you will remain young forever. But remember, every gift has its price."

So Dahlia, without thinking twice, took the bottle and drank a drop. She immediately felt a surge of energy pervading her; she felt lighter and happier than ever. The teenager returned to the village with a radiant smile, convinced that she had found the solution to her wish.

Years went by, but Dahlia didn't change neither physically nor mentally. She continued to be the 17-year-old girl she had always been, while her friends and family grew older and older. At first, it didn't bother her. She played, laughed, and lived carefree. But soon, she started feeling lonely. Her friends were no longer the playmates of the old days. They had their own lives, their own families, and they could no longer spend time with her like they used to.

Dahlia looked for new friends among the young people of the village, still she noticed that the conversations became increasingly difficult. She wasn't changing; the world around her was. Fashions, ways of speaking, interests: everything changed, and she felt more and more alien in a world that didn't understand her and that she wasn't able to follow.

One day, back in the woods, she found the old woman again. With tears in her eyes, Dahlia said: "I thought staying young forever would make me happy. Whereas I feel lonelier than ever."

The old woman smiled softly at her and replied: "Every choice has its consequences, dear Dahlia. Eternal youth may seem like a gift, but without the natural flow of time, we lose the sense of experiences and the growth that defines us."

Only then Dahlia understood the wise woman's true meaning of the words. Eternal youth had locked her in limbo, unable to evolve with the world around her. She took a deep breath and gave back the empty bottle to the woman.

"Can I make up for my mistake?" Dahlia asked.

The woman nodded. "I can give you a second chance. You will grow old like everyone else, but this time you will carry with you the wisdom you have acquired."

Dahlia accepted. She felt the weight of time coming to her, but along with that burden, she also felt a new serenity. Once back in the village, she began to live her life appreciating every moment, every change, and every new experience. She understood that growing up didn't mean losing happiness, but rather finding new ways to be happy, at any age. So, at the end of the day, dealing with the responsibilities of adulthood was not such a big burden, if shared with her loved ones.

M. M.

OPPOSITES

The similarity of every detail made them look like two drops of water, one reflecting the other. Hazel eyes full of light with beautiful dark eyelashes, thick black and curly hair, tanned skin, thin lips and enviable jaw. Freckles were probably the only thing that couldn't be a photocopy. The Bennet twin brothers were the same in everything except their character. Eric Bennet, born 5 seconds earlier, was a great child, like those people who enter in a room and all enlightens, like those who smile at children passing by. He had a small dimple on his right cheek. He was one of those guys who always said "thank you" and passed the empty plate to the waiter. His opposite was his twin brother, Steven. He was just vain and selfish and treated everyone badly, he was concerned with himself and his appearance.

Since an early age, they both had an undisclosed fear: the fear of growing up. Eric feared losing his innocence and goodness, while Steven feared losing his beauty and control over others. Over the years, their fears began to show in different ways.

Eric faced his fears with courage and kindness. He participated in numerous volunteer activities and passionately devoted himself to his studies. This gave him an extraordinary inner strength. Steven, on the contrary, became evil and manipulative. He used his charms to get what he wanted and his heart grew colder and his soul darker and darker.

Years passed and the two brothers took different ways: Eric, with his pure heart, became a beloved and respected doctor, while Steven, on the other hand, went into showbusiness, desperately trying to maintain his youth and beauty.

Many years later, by chance, the twins found themselves at a party. Steven, now oppressed by advancing age and aesthetic changes, was struck by the bright beauty of his brother. Eric, whose composed face and kind look, seemed younger and more attractive than Steven remembered.

"Eric, how can you be so... so handsome?" asked Steven, unable to hide his envy.

Eric smiled softly. "True beauty, dear Steven, comes from within. I learned that kindness and love for others reflect in our soul and, consequently, on our appearance. It is never too late to change, to do good deeds and find true beauty inside of you." Those words struck Steven deeply. For the first time in many years, he realized how empty and shallow his life was. He decided to follow his brother's example and, s began a process of change, trying to do good and take care of others. And so, Eric's lecture transformed Steven, proving that it's never too late to change and find the true beauty of life.

E.P.

THE CLOCK OF LIFE

There once were two young stags, they were brothers, they played all kinds of games together but one day both of them got hurt and when they came back home their father scolded them by saying:

"you two have to be more careful while you play, you could loose your horns or worse -your clock could stop"

The two brothers were confused: "what clock are you talking about father?" they asked.

"There is a clock inside all of us" he said "it goes faster whenever we feel in danger, and as we grow older the clock slows down and eventually one day it'll stop".

The two young stags were shocked by their father's words they were now afraid that their clock could stop, so they asked the wise owl for a solution.

"There is no solution to that, eventually everyone's clock stops, that's how life works" he said.

"Don't listen to that foolish bird he is just jealous of your youth" said a mysterious voice. The brothers turned around and saw it was the malicious goat "you can ask the witch of the woods" he added. The witch of the woods was a powerful entity who lived in a very dark part of the forest.

"Be aware young ones the witch could try to trick you-" before he could finish his warning the brothers ran off. When they finally reached the witch they asked if she had a solution to their problem to which she answered: "Yes, I can make you stay young forever but if you lose your horns you'll die" one of the stags drank the potion but the other did not.

Later, on their way home, the two brothers argued:"Why didn't you drink the potion?" one of them asked.

"Because I want to grow up and become big, strong and wise like our father" the other answered.

"Well suit yourself brother" replied the first.

When they came home they told their father everything they did. The father was horrified by their words, he then explained that every winter stag's horns fall off. The young stag that drank the potion ran away to many places. For many years he lived with the fear of the mighty winter. He was afraid to play games because he could lose his horns if he wasn't careful. He lived in constant fear and paranoia, on the other hand his brother was living happily and grew wiser and old, eventually his clock stopped and he died peacefully. The other brother couldn't run away forever and in the end, the cold winter reached him. The stag suddenly couldn't move, he felt his clock tick faster but then it started to slow down and suddenly it stopped. Now in the afterlife the stag whines and regrets his life decision.

D.P.

A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHERS

'It takes courage to grow up and truly become who you are.'" This was my thought for quite some time until one day with the support of my parents I pushed away or rather erased this thought from my head.

I'll start by telling a little anecdote about my life.

When you reach your 18th birthday day, you think about it, start considering about your future, you start to think about facing life alone, making some choices about your field of study or work, you find yourself face to face with some responsibilities that you didn't have before.

And, then, comes the thought of freedom. Also to be able to decide on taking a trip either alone or in company or go live alone.

That day was a very special day for me.

For days I thought about every single thing so that everything was impeccable and unforgettable.

However, during the party I heard a voice telling me "now you're grown up".

I immediately felt a sense of sadness.

The next day I thought about this sentence again and before going to bed I told my parents about my feelings.

At first my parents laughed and told me that growing up is normal, it's not something bad: you overcome challenges, learn from your mistakes, you are able to contribute to society by participating actively and responsibly in the community. It's something awesome! Everything is part of every single individual's life.

This explanation helped me change inside, making me proud to grow up.

F.R.

THE HORIZON GARDEN

In a small village hidden in the hills, there lived a little girl named Elara. Elara had large, curious eyes, and hair as dark as the night. But there was something special about her: she didn't want to grow up. Elara had decided she would never become an adult because she was afraid that one day her large and bright eyes would become smaller and duller, she was afraid she would lose the sweet sparkle in her eyes. They looked so much like her dead grandfather's. For Elara her grandfather was very important. They had the characteristic of having the same eyes and the same gaze for this reason Elara did not want the magic of his gaze to fade away, so as to always have a memory of her grandfather in her.

One day, while exploring the woods, Elara discovered a secret path. It was a path that no one had ever seen before. It seemed to lead towards the horizon. Elara decided to follow it.

She walked for days, passing through enchanted forests and fields of fragrant flowers. Every step made her feel lighter, as if time had stopped.

She finally arrived at the Horizon Garden. It was a magical place, where the trees had silver roots and the leaves shone like stars. In the garden, Elara met a wise old man with bright eyes. The wise man said to her:

"Elara, you have come to the right place. This is the place where time stands still. Here you can remain a child forever if you wish."

Elara was happy but at the same time dismayed by the fact that the wise old man looked like her grandfather. She immersed herself in the Horizon Garden, she played with butterflies and danced with elves. She forgot the outside world and the fear of growing up. Every now and then, the wise old man came to visit her and told her adventurous and wise stories that reminded her of the stories her grandfather had once told her.

One day, while Elara was walking among the flowers, she met a boy with sad eyes. His name was Leo.

He had been stuck in the Horizon Garden for years. He was afraid to grow up and face reality. Elara decided to help him.

"Leo," she said, "maybe we need to learn how to accept the change in our lives. Growing up doesn't mean losing the magic, but gaining new adventures. I'm afraid of growing up and lose my gaze. I know my grandfather wouldn't want this for me, he would like me to grow up and tell his stories to other kids like me"

Leo listened to Elara's words and decided to leave the Horizon Garden. Elara accompanied him to the border and gave him a silver flower as a souvenir. Leo smiled and said:

“Thank you, Elara. I will never forget this place.”

Elara went back to the village, but now she had a new understanding. Growing up didn't mean losing the magic, but embracing new opportunities. And so, Elara learned to age gracefully, taking with her the beauty of the Horizon Garden.

M.A.

FOREVER YOUNG AT HEART

Once upon a time there was a girl named Clara who didn't want to grow up, because she didn't like growing up.

One day when her parents started to talk about sending her to college she instantly got mad and she screamed "I won't go there! I don't want to grow up" and she ran away.

Her parents got nervous and decided to go out to look for her.

After hours of searching for her everywhere: they searched in the pubs, in the park, in the restaurants, in the shops, in the mall, in the church, but they still didn't find her.

So they decided to try in a library, it was Clara's favorite place when she was a child, because there were rooms where readers could quietly read books, children could play games, students could study, people could have coffee together with friends. So they entered and they found her in the reading room. She was reading Harry Potter.

Then her mother started to talk to her by saying "Why did you ran away from home?" She answered "I don't want to grow up. I want to be young forever."

Her mother answered "But you can't. Nobody can. You need to grow up with positive or negative experiences. You need to live your life. You can't be forever young, you can't stop time. But you can be young inside forever".

So as Clara listened to her mother she decided to come back home with her.

C.P.

THE LOST PHOTO

Once upon a time, in a quiet little village nestled between rolling hills and dense forests, there lived two inseparable friends, Emily and Sophie.

They had grown up together, sharing every adventure, every secret and every dream. One sunny afternoon, as they were exploring the outskirts of the village, Sophie stumbled upon an old, rusty locket buried in the dirt. They found a photograph of a young girl and an inscription that read, "to my dearest friend, forever and always". The locket seemed ancient its history buried deep in time.

Determined to uncover the story behind the locket, Emily and Sophie set off on a quest. They began by asking the village elders hoping someone might recognize the locket or the girl in the photograph. After many dead ends, they met Mrs. Willow, an elderly woman with a twinkle in her eye and countless stories to tell.

Mrs. Willow examined the locket carefully and gasped. "This locket belonged to my best friend, Lily "she said softly. We were as close as you two are now. We did everything together, but one day, she moved away, so we lost touch. I thought this locket was lost forever ".

Emily and Sophie listened carefully as Mrs. Willow recounted tales of her childhood, Determined to rewrite Mrs. Willow with her long -lost friend the girls travelled to nearby towns. Finally, after searching, they found an address that led them to a small cottage by the sea.

To their delight, they found Lily now an old woman with the same twinkle in her eyes as Mrs Willow. Overwhelmed with emotion, Lily couldn't believe her locket had been found after all these years. She shared her own stories and the girls felt the warmth and strength of a friendship that had endured despite the years and distance.

Emily and Sophie realized that friendship is timeless - a precious treasure that can withstands any obstacle.

As a token of gratitude, Mrs Willow and Lily gave the locket to Emily and Sophie symbolizing the enduring power of their friendship. The girls returned to their village. Their hearts full, knowing they had witnessed something truly magical.

From that day forward they cherished their bond even more, knowing that no matter what, they too would remain friends "forever and always". And so the legacy of the locket continued a reminder of the beautiful unbreakable threads that weave true friends together.

L.L.T

A STORY ABOUT LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP.

Robert and Kevin had grown up together, just as brothers. Their families have lived in the green building on River street on the same floor, since 2001. The two children used to spend time playing football, watching cartoons. They started to attend the same primary school and were in the same class of course. They were inseparable.

Robert was more extroverted, always chatting with others, playing jokes and laughing outloud. Kevin was shyer, he rarely joined the others to play, but he actually enjoyed his own company.

When they turned 16 and were attending the secondary school, they decided to join a drama course.

There were 20 teenagers attending the course, but just seven girls.

Robert and Kevin noticed one of the girls straight away, her name was Julia. Julia had long blond hair, two beautiful big green eyes, and when she spoke her tone was so calm and peaceful...an angel!

Especially for Kevin, Julia had become the sweetest part of the day at the course, he started dreaming of her as well! But he was too shy to reveal his feelings to her.

After a few months Mr. Brown, the Drama teacher, called Kevin in his office. He wanted him to be the main character for the show of his important company that would have been played at the end of the year at the Royal Albert Hall!

When he got home, he received a call. It was Robert, "can we meet at the park where we usually played football" Robert asked.

Once there, he saw Robert and Julia form the distance: as Robert saw Kevin approaching, he went towards his friend and hugged him. He was so happy. He wanted to share the news with his best friend: Robert and Julia were in a relationship, and would have left for a holiday together at the end of the year!

Kevin said nothing, he barely smiled to them and went away. He was so depressed and disappointed.

In the meantime, Robert knew that Mr. Brown had chosen Kevin for his important play at the Royal Albert Hall.

He ran to Kevin's house to congratulate him, but Kevin's mum told him that Kevin didn't want to see anyone, he was in his room, crying. Robert said nothing and left.

The day after Julia and Robert dropped in at Kevin's house, they wanted to speak to him. They had brought him all the Shakespeare's works: Kevin loved Shakespeare. "If you want, you can practise every evening with me" Robert invited.

After a few weeks, Kevin decided to go back to the course. Mr. Brown was so happy! So he said to Kevin "From this moment you are going to attend the rehearsals for the play at the Royal Albert hall". And so he did.

In the following months the rehearsals became always harder, but Kevin was enjoying it all.

In the evening Julia and Robert started to have dinner at Kevin's, they always brought take away food and had conversations and laughed together.

Until the big day arrived: all the main personalities of the city were at the Albert hall. Everybody enjoyed Kevin's performance on stage.

He had been amazing! In the audience there was the manager of the most important theatre in London: once the play finished, he asked Julia and Robert if they could introduce Kevin to him.

They went to his dressing room. Robert and Julia introduced Kevin to the manager. Soon after he asked Kevin if he wanted to move to London, as his theatre was looking for the main actor. "If you agree you can sign the contract straight away!"

Kevin couldn't believe it. He thanked the manager and said yes.

Then he hugged Julia and Robert and said: "Let's go and have dinner together, we must celebrate!"

H.S. & S.S.