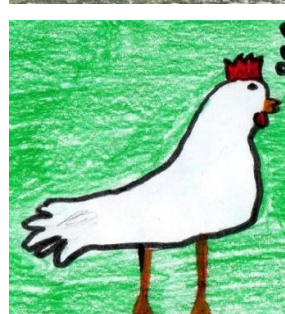
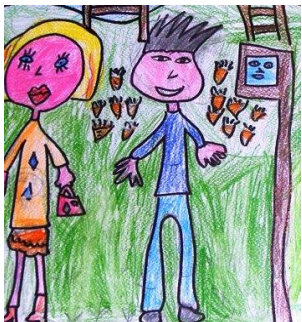


European Comenius Project
"YOUR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS
HELP ME TO APPRECIATE MINE"



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Traditional Tuscan stories



Istituto Comprensivo Rignano Incisa - Italy
Primary schools of Rignano, Troghi, Incisa
school year 2012/2013



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

Index

- **Introduction** page 4
- **Petuzzo** page 5
- **Niccolino** page 6
- **Pinocchio** page 7
- **Little One – Buchettino** page 8
- **Buffalo’s Head – Testa di bufala** page 9
- **Ogre’s feathers – Le penne dell’orco** page 10
- **The Iron Goat – La capra Ferrata** page 11
- **Frog, frog – Rana, rana** page 12
- **The gift of the North Wind – Il regalo del Vento Tramontano** page 13
- **Chichibio and the crane – Chichibio e la gru** page 14
- **The thin hen – Gallina secca** page 15

The stories that we have collected for the Comenius project are traditional Tuscan tales, handed down only verbally for centuries and subsequently collected and transcribed by famous Italian writers, such as Italo Calvino and Mario Luzi.

Our pupils have read, analyzed and processed the stories, producing narrative sequences with pictures; for some tales, they have also made other forms of presentation, such as animated stories and dramatizations.

The research about these stories was an opportunity to learn our culture and traditions, to do research on the ancient vocabulary and to learn about different writing and literary styles.

In some of them (**The gift of the North Wind, Buffalo's head**) the research of the magical element is dominant and resolves the protagonist's troubles; in other (**Ogre's feathers, Little one**) the humble protagonist finds himself involved in jobs that seem to be above its possibilities, but at the end he is victorious because of his virtues, his cunning or his fortune.

There are love stories, thwarted because of the men or some spells that must be dissolved (**Frog frog, Niccolino**) and fairytales in which animals are the main characters that interact each other or with men (**The thin hen**).

We also find stories dedicated to the youngest children, with the same parts that are repeated during the narration (**Petuzzo, The iron goat**).

The novel **Chichibio and the crane** belongs instead to the most ancient Italian literary tradition. Giovanni Boccaccio wrote the "Decameron", a group of 100 novels, in 1350 during the plague in Florence. At that time, a group of seven young noble women and three men moved to the hills of Florence in order to protect themselves from the plague.

Every day each of them used to tell a story: "Chichibio and the Crane" is one of them.



We have included in the stories of this collection also **The Adventures of Pinocchio**, here presented in a very concise way. The story of the famous puppet was written in 1881 by Carlo Lorenzini, called Collodi from the name of his village.

The book was a huge worldwide success; it still fascinates young and adults for the extraordinary adventures of the protagonist and for its ever-present ability to represent, in a metaphorical way, the growth and many real-life situations.

Petuzzo classes 1 A – 1 B Rignano sull'Arno

Petuzzo's Mom tells Petuzzo: "Petuzzo, go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for dad who is sick."

Petuzzo says: "I won't go!"

"Then I will say to the bat to hit you: bat, hits Petuzzo because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The bat says: "I won't hit!"

"Then I will say to the fire to burn you: fire, burn the bat, because the bat doesn't want to hit Petuzzo, because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The fire says: "I won't burn it!"

"Then I will say to the water to extinguish you: water, extinguish the fire, because the fire doesn't want to burn the bat, because the bat doesn't want to hit Petuzzo, because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The water says: "I won't turn it off!"

"Then I will say to the bull to drink you: bull, drink the water, because the water doesn't want to extinguish the fire, because the fire doesn't want to burn the bat, because the bat doesn't want to hit Petuzzo, because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The bull says: "I won't drink it!"

"Then I will say to the rope to bind you: rope, bind the bull, because the bull doesn't want to drink the water, because the water doesn't want to extinguish the fire, because the fire doesn't want to burn the bat, because the bat doesn't want to hit Petuzzo, because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The rope says: "I won't bind!"

"Then I will say to the mouse to gnaw you: mouse, gnaw the rope, because the rope doesn't want to bind the bull, because the bull doesn't want to drink the water, because the water doesn't want to extinguish the fire, because the fire doesn't want to burn the bat, because the bat doesn't want to hit Petuzzo, because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The mouse says: "I won't gnaw!"

"Then I will say to the cat to eat you: cat, eat the mouse, because the mouse doesn't want to gnaw the rope, because the rope doesn't want to bind the bull, because the bull doesn't want to drink the water, because the water doesn't want to extinguish the fire, because the fire doesn't want to burn the bat, because the bat doesn't want to hit Petuzzo, because Petuzzo doesn't want to go in the vegetable garden to take the cabbage for his dad who is sick."

The cat says: "I eat, I eat!"

The mouse says: "I gnaw, I gnaw!"

The rope says: "I bind, I bind!"

The bull says: "I drink, I drink!"

The water says: "I extinguish, I extinguish!"

The fire says: "I burn, I burn!"

The bat says: "I hit, I hit!"

Petuzzo says: "I go, I go!"



Niccolino classes 2 A – 2 B Incisa in Val d'Arno

Once upon a time, there was a king who had three sons. One day he called them, giving three boxes with some wool and inviting them to go to their girlfriends to make it spin. Who in three days had better yarn the wool, would become king and queen of the kingdom. The eldest son and the second ran immediately to their girlfriends. But Niccolino, the youngest, hadn't a girlfriend, so he put the wool under his arm and went for a walk in a meadow near the palace, along a ditch. Tired and thoughtful, Niccolino sat down on a rock. Suddenly a frog arrived, who asked him the reason of so much sadness. Niccolino told her everything, then the frog asked him to leave the little box with the wool, go back there in three days and say a simple refrain:

Botta botta melagrana,
fila fila la tua lana,
e filare o non filare,
dopo ti vorrò sposare.

Knock knock pomegranate
row row your wool,
and spinning or not spinning,
I want to marry you after.

Niccolino accepted the help. After three days he returned to the rock and he began to recite the same refrain. The frog came quickly and gave him a walnut, saying that only the king could open it. So the young man immediately went to the palace.

In the palace there was a big party with many guests. Kings and princes of the neighboring kingdoms, princesses and queens, marquises and barons with all the servants had come to see who would be the new king. The old king called the sons to determine who had spined the best wool. The first two sons brought their wool: both received the compliments of the king.

Then Niccolino came, bringing his walnut. The old king broke the pod: inside there was a little thread, as thin as a spider's web. The king began to pull it out and a lot of wool came off from the walnut.

The king pulled, pulled, pulled and the wool filled the whole castle, went through the doors and covered the whole city.

So the king proclaimed winner Niccolino and told him to return to the palace with his princess to unite them in marriage and crown the new king.

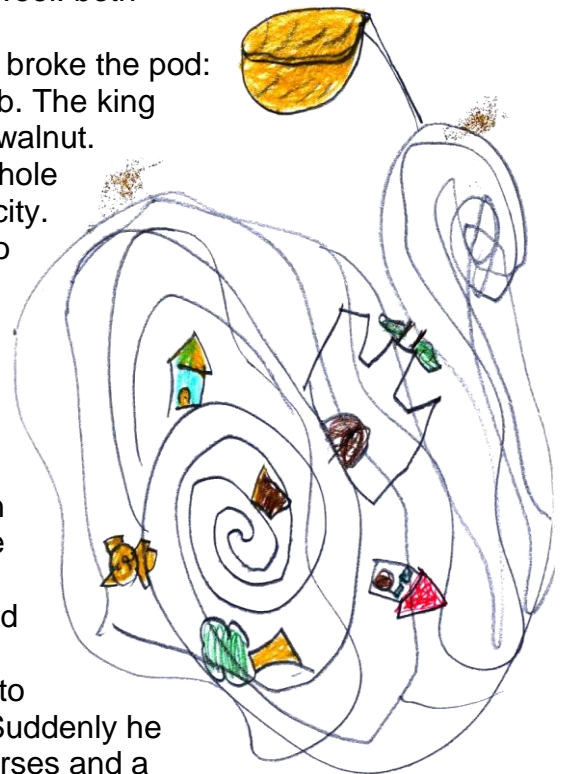
Niccolino returned to the stone, called the frog and asked her to marry him.

The wedding day Niccolino stood up and went to the appointment with the frog.

The future queen was dressed all in green with a green veil in the head and she was sitting on a carriage made with a fig leaf and drawn by four snails. The journey began, but the snails were very slow, so Niccolino stood under an oak tree to wait and he fell asleep. When he woke up, the frog hadn't arrived yet, so Niccolino went to look for her in the bushes, the grass, under the trees. Suddenly he saw a gleam: a golden carriage drawn by four white horses and a beautiful girl dressed in green.

The girl told that a witch, jealous of her beauty, had turned her into a frog and only the wish of a young man to marry her could save her: Niccolino had broken the enchantment. Then Niccolino hugged his beautiful girlfriend and together they went to the palace.

The old king and all the guests were surprised by the beautiful bride and the two brothers were envious. The old king proclaimed Niccolino king with his queen. And they lived happily ever after.



Pinocchio classes 2 A – 2 B Rignano sull'Arno

The poor carpenter Geppetto builds a puppet and names it Pinocchio.

Pinocchio does a lot of pranks until Geppetto goes to the prison. The puppet is alone at home and squashes the wise speaking cricket with a hammer because he doesn't want to hear his advice. Then he burns his feet while he is sleeping.

Geppetto goes back and makes new feet for Pinocchio. He wants the puppet go to school, so sells the jacket to buy him an ABC book. But Pinocchio sells it to go and see the puppets theater of the puppeteer Fire-Eater. First, Fire-Eater wants to eat Pinocchio, but then he is moved to pity and gives him five gold coins for his father. But, along the way, Pinocchio meets the cat and the fox, which, after eating with him at the restaurant Osteria del Gambero Rosso, chase him disguised as assassins to steal his coins.

The killers hang Pinocchio the big oak, but the good fairy with blue hair sends the falcon to free him. Pinocchio tells many lies to the fairy, so his nose is getting longer and longer. After taking the medicine, Pinocchio heals and he comes back home. Along the way, he finds the cat and the fox who convinced him to sow the gold coins in the Field of Miracles, saying that a tree full of coins will grow up. So they cheat him and Pinocchio loses all his money. Returning home Pinocchio meets a snake that, seeing the puppet in the mud, dies laughing. Pinocchio, hungry, enter into a vineyard to eat a bit of grapes, but he is caught in a trap set by a farmer.

The farmer brings Pinocchio to guard the hen house, tying him to the chain instead of the dog. Pinocchio manages to capture martens, so the farmer sets him free.

Pinocchio finds the tomb of the Blue fairy and cries desperate, believing she is dead.

Pinocchio flies with the dove to look for Geppetto, reaches the sea and sees the carpenter on a sinking boat, so he dives into the sea to save his father, but he cannot reach him.

Pinocchio finds the fairy on the island of the Working Bees, he goes to live with her and promises to become a good boy. Pinocchio goes to school and works very hard. One day he goes to the beach with his classmates and, during an argument, one of them is wounded. Pinocchio escapes and gets thrown into the sea, but Alidoro, the guards' dog, pursues him. Then the dog is about to drown but Pinocchio saves him.

The horrible green fisherman fishes Pinocchio and wants to fry him, but the dog Alidoro saves the puppet.

Pinocchio returns to the fairy, but he finds a very slow snail to open the door. He promises to the fairy to become a good boy and she promises that in return he will become a real boy. Pinocchio is convinced by his friend Lampwick to go in Toyland, where there are no schools and the kids play all the day, but after five months he wakes up with the ears and the tail of a donkey.

The donkey Pinocchio lames doing the show in the circus, so it is sold to a man who wants to drown him to make a drum with his skin. But Pinocchio is saved because the fish nibble the skin of the donkey, so he becomes again a puppet. The Blue fairy, transformed into a goat, shouts Pinocchio to escape, but the shark swallows him.

Pinocchio finds Geppetto in the belly of the shark, together they manage to escape and a tuna brings them on an island. On the island Pinocchio finds again the cat and the fox, but this time he doesn't listen to them and gets to work hard to heal Geppetto.

Finally, one morning, Pinocchio wakes up and he has become a real boy.



Little One - Buchettino classes 3 A-B-C Rignano sull'Arno

Little one sweeps the floor and finds a penny, so he decides to buy some figs.

One fig falls down from the window.

Father says: "Don't worry Little one, very soon a figs plant will grow up!"

He climbs the tree to eat the figs.

A bad ogre smells him, gets near and asks him for a fig. Little one throws him a fig, but it falls in the mud.

Little one throws another fig, but it falls on excrement.

Little one, scared, gives him a fig with his hand.

The ogre catches him and puts the boy in a sack.

The ogre must leave the sack for a minute. The boy makes a hole in the sack and gets out. Then Little one fills the sack with stones.



The ogre goes home and asks his wife to cook the boy. When they put stones in the pan, the hot water boils and comes out and kills the ogre's wife.

Little one climbs up to the roof. The ogre wants to catch him.

He puts pans over pans, but he is too heavy so he falls down.

The ogre puts plates over plates, but he falls down again.

The ogre puts glasses over glasses, but he falls down and dies.

Little one goes back home to his mother and they live happily ever after.



Buffalo's Head – Testa di bufala class 3 B Incisa in Val d'Arno

Once upon a time there was a farmer and his poor family... One day the farmer was hoeing when he found a magic buffalo's head! Buffalo's Head asked to a farmer's daughter to live with her and promised good luck for all the family. The bravest daughter went to live with Buffalo's Head in a wonderful underground house in the wood.



One day, the young girl went to the wood, she was tired to live underground. So she met a wonderful Prince! They felt in love, so they decided to get married!

Unfortunately the girl had left the house without thanks and greets Buffalo's Head. The head took her revenge and changed her in a monster! The Prince got scared and the Queen hid the girl in a garret!



The Queen wanted a different Princess. So she thought three difficult attempts: to spin a cloth, to sew a shirt to the Prince and to win a beauty contest.

The Girl was so sorry with Buffalo's Head and Buffalo's Head made a wizard with a magic light brown, a magic nut and a magic comb. Finally the Girl won! The girl and the Prince get married and they lived happily once and for all!



Ogre's feathers – Le penne dell'orco classes 4 A-B Rignano sull'Arno

The king was ill, he needed a ogre's feather to get well.

The brave and faithful servant went outside to look for the ogre.

The servant met a host. The host had lost his daughter and he needed a ogre's feather.

The servant met a boatman. The boatman asked him a ogre's feather because he was prisoner of a spell.

The servant met two knights .They asked him for a ogre's feather because their fountain didn't produce gold and silver.

The servant met two knights.They asked him for a ogre's feather because their fountain didn't produce gold and silver.

The servant climb up a mountain to find a hole that was the door of the ogre's house.

The servant knocked at the ogre's door and the ogre's wife opened. The ogre wasn't in the house. The girl and the servant spoke and decided how to fool the ogre.

The ogre came back home and smelt the odour of a person. The ogre had a big meal and when he was in the bed, his wife started to pull away five feathers.

The servant gave a feather to the friars.

He explained how to stop the quarrels.

The servant said to the knights: "Beat the ball over the snake's head and the fountain will work."



The servant gave a feather to the boatman and explained how to free from the spell.

The servant gave a feather to the host and said: "Beat a stone on the step and your daughter will come back"

The servant gave a feather to the king and he got well.

The servant married the host's daughter and they live happily ever after!

The Iron Goat – La capra Ferrata classes 4 A-B Rignano sull'Arno

An old woman always left the door open. Her neighbours told her to close it.

One day the iron goat went in the old woman's house.

The old woman was sad and started crying.



An oxen tried to help her. He knocked at the door and said: "I'm the oxen with new horns, open the door, I want to get in."

The goat replied: "I'm the

iron goat, I have iron mouth and a tongue like a sword, if you get in I'll slice you like a turnip."

The oxen, scared, ran away and the old woman went on crying.

A donkey offered to help the woman.

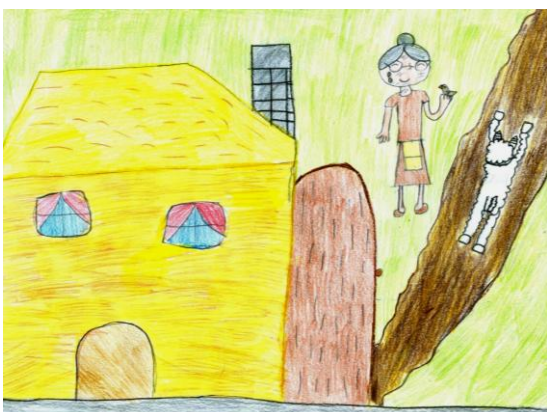
The goat repeated her horrible threat, the donkey ran away.



A pig offered to help the woman, it knocked at the door and said: "I'm the pig with a strange muzzle, open the door, I want to get in." The goat repeated her threat. The pig, scared, ran away.

The old woman was sad. A little bird offered to help her. She started to laugh because the bird was small and weak.

The little bird knocked on the door and said: "I'm the brave bird and with my beak I'll make a hole in your brain."



The horrible goat, scared, ran away.

The old woman and the little bird lived happily ever after.

Frog, frog – Rana, rana class 4 A Troghi



Once upon a time there was an old king. He lived with his three sons on the top of a mountain. In the little reign there weren't princesses.

The King said to his sons: "Throw the golden ball in different directions, there you'll find your brides."

The ball of the eldest son fell in front of a farmer's house.

The ball of the second son fell in front of a baker's house.

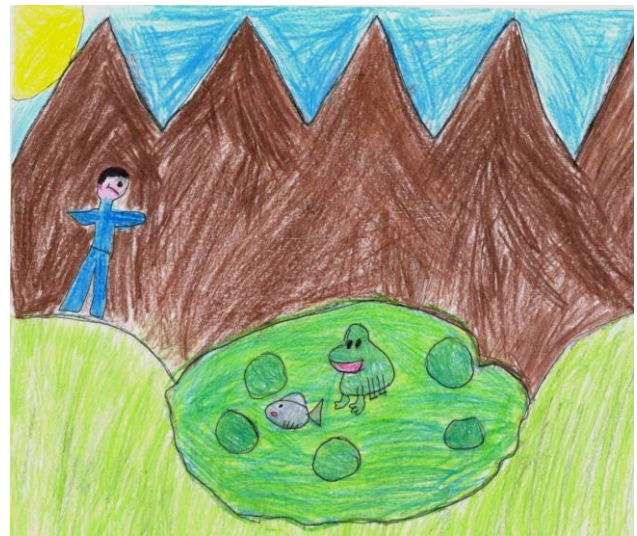
The ball of Federico, the youngest, fell in a pond.

The king called his sons and proposed to the girls and the frog a test: to spin the linen.

The frog passed the first test. Federico told her: "The king proposed a second test: to weave the linen."

The frog passed the second test. The king proposed a last test: to sew a dress.

The frog passed the last test. The king ordered to his sons to bring their girlfriends to the palace.



Federico went to the pond and called the frog. A wonderful girl came out from the water. She was victim of a spell. Federico married the beautiful girl. He was the new king and she was the queen. They lived happily ever after.

The gift of the North Wind – Il regalo del Vento Tramontano

classes 5 - B Incisa in Val d'Arno

Many years ago a family of farmers lived in a house with a wide field all around (in Tuscan language it is called "podere"). It belonged to a Priest and they had to pay the rent to him. One day the farmer Geppone was very sad, because the North Wind had destroyed his harvest. Rosina, his wife, suggested him to go to the North Wind.

When Geppone arrived at North Wind's home, he found only wind's wife. Then, the North Wind arrived. Geppone implored the North Wind not to blow on the harvest any more. The Wind helped him by giving a silver box: when he opened the box a lot of food appeared.

The Priest found out that Rosina and her family had a magic box, which contains bread, wine and ham. Then the Priest took away the magic box.



When Geppone returned home, he realized that Rosina had told the secret thing to the Priest and he had taken away the magic box.

Rosina convinced him to go again to the Wind. When Geppone arrived to the Wind's cave and asked for a help, he gave him a golden box. Along the road, he was hungry but, when he opened the box, a terrible giant appeared and hit him with a stick.

Fortunately Geppone closed the box and realized what to do. At home, when Rosina opened the box, the giant came out and knocked her with a stick.

Geppone suggested her to go to the Priest's house and convince him to change the box. When the Priest saw the golden box, he accepted the request.

So when the Priest opened the golden box, the terrible giant appeared and started to beat him a lot. Rosina turned back home and told her husband about the change and that everything went perfect.

So Rosina and Geppone, with their family, lived happily and carefree ever after.



Chichibio and the crane – Chichibio e la gru class 5 B Troghi

One day Sir Corrado goes to hunt with his hawk and catches a crane.
Sir Corrado goes back home and gives the crane to his chef Chichibio because he wants to eat the crane for dinner.



Miss Brunetta enters Chichibio's kitchen while he is cooking the crane and she asks him if she may eat a crane's thigh. Chichibio doesn't agree, but he loves Miss Brunetta, so finally he gives her the thigh. Chichibio brings the crane on a tray for dinner. Sir Corrado asks to the chef why the crane hasn't got one thigh. Chichibio replies that the cranes have got only one paw.

Sir Corrado doesn't say anything else but he doesn't believe the story.
The day after Sir Corrado goes near the river with Chichibio. Chichibio looks worried but fortunately he sees twelve cranes asleep on one paw. But Sir Corrado shouts and all the cranes wake up and set the other paw down. After that Corrado says to Chichibio that the cranes have got two paws.



Chichibio replies to Corrado that if he had shouted the evening before during the dinner also the crane would set down its paw
Sir Corrado thinks that Chichibio's answer is very witty, so he decides not to punish him and they both start laughing.

The thin hen – Gallina secca classes 5 A Troghi – 5 A/B Rignano

In a farm on the plain lives a very, very thin hen. All the other hens peck, laid eggs and have chicks, but she doesn't do anything. She just stays thin. The farmer's wife is thinking of wringing the hen's neck.

The hen is afraid and she proposes to the woman going to the mountains to put on weight and after that to come back home. The woman agrees the hen's idea, so the hen leaves and goes to the mountain. The hen leaves the farm and goes to the mountain.



On its way she meets a hungry fox that wants to eat her. The hen persuades the fox to eat it in autumn when she'll be fat.

In the mountains the hen lives in a beautiful wood. During the day she scratches the land, pecks a lot and puts on weight.

She makes twelve eggs, she broods them and than twelve chicks born.



The autumn arrives and the hen decides to come back to the farm with her chicks. She puts on line her chicks with a little spike in their beak, but the last doesn't have any spike.

The hen and her chicks meet the fox. The fox asks what the chicks have got in their beaks.



The hen replies that they have got tails in their beaks, taken from unlucky foxes met on their way. The hen tells the fox to be careful because her chicks are wild and they want her tail!

Then the fox ran as far away as she could, and the hen and her chicks, safe and sound, went back to the farm.

