



## *This month's content*

### THE HAPPY PRINCE

The second issue of our Twin Bulletin is dedicated to a beautiful and inspiring tale by the Irish writer Oscar Wilde.

Some of the classes participating in our project read the tale with their teachers and engaged themselves in a series of cooperative activities on the topics of the story.

The message of the tale is simply universal: a beautiful and generous soul will be rewarded.

But other interesting aspects can be found in this little literary jewel, for example the theme of **friendship** and the idea of **responsibility**.

Our students faced the challenge of working in transnational groups using information and communication technologies to get in touch, discuss, share ideas and agree on a final version of their work. And they did a really good job!

In this issue you will find some re-writing exercises with new versions of the tale - changing setting or narrator's perspectives - and links to presentations about the main themes contained in the story.

Enjoy reading!

*The Twin Library Team*

*God said to his servants, 'Bring me the two best things in the city.' They brought Him the broken heart and the dead bird. 'Yes, you have brought the right things,' God said. 'This little bird will sing forever in my garden, and the Happy Prince will stand in my city of gold.'*

*The Happy Prince, by Oscar Wilde*



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## THE TWIN PRINCE

### OUR MODERN HAPPY PRINCE

Prince Vrasidas is a very rich man. He has a lot of money that he keeps for himself. Everyone calls him "The Happy Prince" because he takes part in many parties and because on the street he always has a smile on his face. He lives in the richest neighborhood near London.

Instead, James is just a poor man. He lives in Brazil with his family in the most poor neighborhood of the city.

One day, when he is walking around his city Vrasidas reaches James' neighborhood and he is very disgusted and fearful. Suddenly a passing car hits Prince Vrasidas.

Then James, who is a homeless man, sees "The Happy Prince" bleeding and runs to help him. He carries him on his shoulders to the hospital.

When Prince Vrasidas wakes up from his accident Dr. Alex tells him that a car hit him.

Then he tells him that a man called James, a homeless man, helped him and took him to the hospital. Prince Vrasidas remembers all those times when he walked into homeless people and did nothing. So he decides to give all his money to start a company that will help poor people.

He talks to James about his idea and what happened early this morning. James totally agrees with him and tells him that he is going to help him with it.

What happened to him really opened his eyes on the world and made him realise that not everything is always happy.

He decided to start an association called "Don't worry, be happy". The association gives free health care and helps people with financial difficulties.

The Happy Prince is walking in the street when he meets a quite scared match girl. He approaches her and asks her what the matter with her is. She tells him that she can't go home because her father would beat her because she lost all his matches and earned nothing. The Prince proposes to her to join his association and stay there, so that she no longer has to fear his father.

Another day, another experience.

The Happy Prince returns on that same road, and sees a pregnant woman lying down on the ground, with a tag saying: "Help me! I'm pregnant and I have no money".

He leaves her a note with the address of his association "Don't worry be happy".

Tired of sitting there, she leaves and once arrived they offer her a warm blanket, food and assistance.

One day, a little boy comes to the office and tells the happy prince that he is very sick and needs a heart transplant. For many days the happy prince helps the little boy find a heart donor. In vain, they didn't find anyone.



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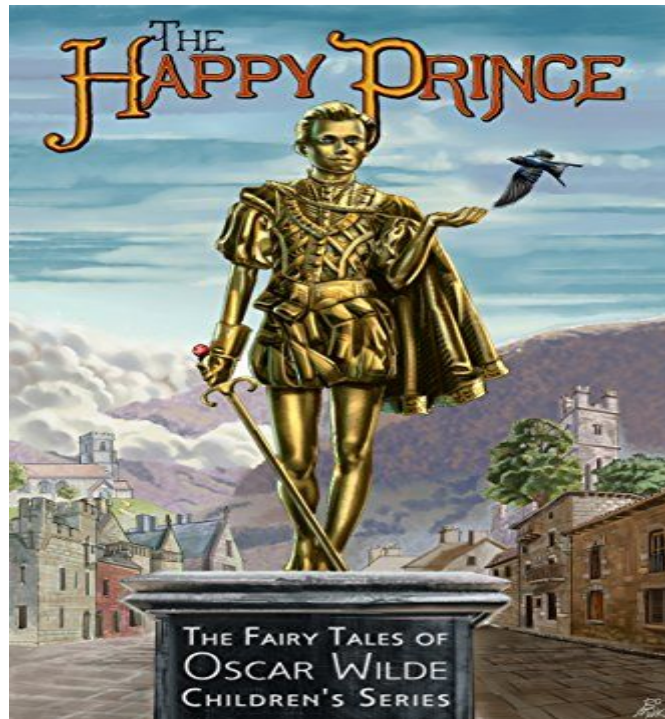


Finally, the little boy receives a message saying that the association has found a donor for him. They proceed to the transplant the next day.

The little boy is so happy and thankful, he goes to find the happy prince to tell him the good news. After searching for him for a few hours he learns that the happy prince was no other than his heart donor. The little boy cries for days.

Later on, he inherits the association and the first thing he does is setting a huge golden statue in honor of the prince.

*By Eugenio V., Lucia B., Stella B.(Pesaro), Petros, Nicholas (Ioannina), Elena C, Fabio (Sassari), Riccardo R. , Tommaso C., Enri (Saronno), Zoey R, Elisa L (Ste Anne)*





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## THE HAPPY PRINCE TODAY

Bob is the mayor of Catlin, New York. He is a rich man and he has got a small dog, the dog's name is Leo. The mayor sends Leo to give his money to poor people.

One day the dog goes to a poor nurse's house. She's sleeping on the sofa and near this, there is her son, he's playing with toys. Leo leaves some money on the table and comes back home. When the dog arrives at home he is so happy because he has done a good deed.

The day after the mayor and his dog go to the church; during their walk they meet the nurse with her son, who doesn't know that the money she found on the table was left by the mayor's dog.

When the child sees the dog, he tells his mother that he already saw that dog in their house the night before. His mother is amazed, when the dog begins to lick the child's face.

The mayor tells the nurse that he sent his dog to her house to help her and her family because he knew that they had great financial difficulties.

The nurse thanks them and she embraces both strongly.

During the following week, Leo is sad because the mayor has a lot of work to do. So, Bob can't be with him. Then, he decides to help the city on his own. He begins to walk alone in Catlin to find families that he could help.

Walking in front of the basketball field, Leo sees a teenage girl who is crying. He wonders how he could help her. Therefore, the little dog goes to the girl and asks her to tell him her story.

She says that her name is Mary and that she can't go home because her parents want her to be a doctor but before that she has to do medical studies. Her family hasn't got enough money. So, Mary has to have a good mark at basketball to be granted a scholarship. Today, she is sick that is why she has missed her match. Consequently, her parents will be mad at her.

Saddened by this story, Leo decides to talk to Bob about Mary. So, they go together to the Catlin town hall.

Once arrived and the story is told, the mayor decides to give money to her and her family but only if she completes her dream studies.

She is scared about her parents' reaction because her dream studies are acting studies.



*by Valentina B., Camilla M., Giulia T. (Pesaro), Dario, Eleonora (Sassari), Daniele, Eleonora G. (Saronno), Louan A, Richard B ( Ste'Anne)*



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## A PRINCE IN OLD EGYPT

Long ago, in ancient Egypt a dung beetle was going to lay her eggs inside a papyrus plant, on the Nile's bank. Here a beautiful crocodile saw her and said: «Trust me, if you leave your eggs here, your babies will die!» The beetle was quite skeptical but she moved her eggs anyway. After two days the beetle came back to the papyrus plant but the area was completely covered with the Nile's waters. So she returned to the crocodile and told him: «How did you know that? How is it possible?» the crocodile said: «Oh dear beetle, because I'm a god! My name's Sobek and I'm a crocodile because when I was alive my brother betrayed me to become faraon and he transformed me into a crocodile.»

«I'll be always thankful to you, how can I help you? You can ask me

everything you want!».

«You're too kind. Go to your kids and take care of them, they need you!». Maybe you're right but now I must do the same favour to you! Oh my lord, that's so important for me».

«If you are so into it, what about being my messenger? Humans are scared to talk to me, but you are revered by them».

«No problem, ask me what you want and I'll do it». So Sobek asked to go to the closest village and told the people that they had to move since a flood was coming. So did the beetle and the village was safe. The beetle felt warm, so he asked the crocodile for another task.

He said:«Maybe there is something else you can do. What about those guys, they are going to pick the ball out from the river, but they don't know how dangerous the current is, so run or they'll drown.

The poor children playing on the side of the river are trying to catch their ball that has fallen into the water.

When the hippo sees them, he tries to kill them because they are in his territory.

The crocodile sees the scene and he decides to help them by giving them an ancient amulet that protects the children. The beetle keeps it inside his ball





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until the boys are safe.

The children are shocked because they thought that the crocodile was a bad animal and wanted to eat them, but they realize that the crocodile is exactly the opposite: actually Sobek wanted to save them from the dangerous current of the river.

They finally see the real face of the crocodile: humans are scared of him while Sobek is only a good person who wants to help the others. So the children understand that appearances are deceptive because in fact, before being a crocodile, Sobek was an Egyptian god and he was transformed into a crocodile.

Then the boys sell the amulet and their families become rich and the children will be eternally grateful to the crocodile and to the beetle.

*by Alessandro T. (Pesaro), Aurora, Morgana (Sassari), Matilde, Alessandro Covelli, Maroan (Saronno), Sarah S., Lilou R. (Ste Anne)*

## A TALE FROM THE FUTURE

"I can't stand this anymore! Every move I make is being watched!! I want to leave this place!"

This was a phrase often told by teenagers to their tired parents. Unfortunately, there was nothing they could do to change the situation. Everything was controlled by the government, the people of the city were practically unable to act according to their own free will. The "Statue of the Happy Prince", a life-sized robot with glass eyes that had the ability to read the souls of the passers-by and control their thoughts and actions, stood high, still and threatening above the city. The mayor had said that it was the only solution to survive from the certain death that would be caused by global warming; the prince would watch every second of their lives, so that no one could be able to harm the environment further. But it was already too late...A large amount of the population had been affected by the consequences of this horrifying phenomenon, as if an invisible infective disease had struck the place and nobody could escape its symptoms; patients had overflowed the hospitals due to air pollution, others were injured by the severe storms and wildfires, some were poisoned because of the contamination of the drinking water...The presence of the Happy Prince was a necessary disturbance.



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A lot of people felt useless because they didn't know anything by themselves.



The only problem was that the Happy Prince was a frightening figure but he was useful for the population, who was in a terrible environmental situation. He helped people by collecting garbage and recycling it, and people loved him. He was useful to the people and the environment, but unfortunately the government didn't like his presence. Nobody was able to protect the environment alone. Everybody contributed how he could. The Happy Prince continued not being satisfied. Everyday he would collect the garbage of the city and recycle it, while keeping an eye on the actions of the passers-by; littering was considered a serious offense, so he had to be careful in case someone dared to do such a thing. His iron-fisted tactics were perceived with mixed feelings by the locals, since some criticised his strictness, thinking it was unnecessary, while others strongly supported this behaviour, for they believed it was the sole hope they had to survive the deadly environmental phenomenon that was occurring around them.

As for the Happy Prince himself, his sentiments and mood did not at all identify with the name that he was given. He was permanently melancholic and downhearted, since he was treated with fear and sometimes even disapproval by the people of the city; he had no one whom he felt close to. He was alone in a place where everyone was extremely hesitant to see him as a friend or even approach him and there was nothing he could do to change that.

Then, on a sunny summer day, a little flying visitor landed on his metal body, a visitor that was about to change his life forever...

The little flying visitor was actually a Swallow, the little Swallow came to protect himself from the climate change. He was looking for a warm place to sleep. Then he saw the Happy Prince who was recycling the garbage of the city. He immediately thought that this prince was a really good person even if he was pretty scary.

“- Swallow, swallow, little swallow. Where are you from ?

-I'm from a place where everybody is gone.

-Why are they all gone ?



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- They all left because of climate change.
- You seem pretty sad when you talk about it.
- Well... They were my friends and I don't know what happened to them.
- Then I can be your new friend, if you want me to."

After that the swallow stopped talking because bringing up his story makes him feel morose. The Prince saw his sadness and decided to change the swallow mind by asking for his help.

"-Swallow, swallow, little swallow can you be my messenger to make the world better place for the human.

-I accept but only for one night, next day they need me in New Zealand because of the wildfire.

--Swallow, swallow, little swallow. I saw a man near the church, he was throwing his garbage into the street. I want you to bring him some recycling bin and make him a better person.

-I will, you can count on me.

-Swallow, swallow, little swallow do as I command you."

The swallow flew away and did what the Prince asked him to do.

The next morning the swallow prepared to leave for New Zealand. The Prince saw that his little friend was ready to leave and couldn't accept that so he begged him to stay with him one more night. At first the swallow refused because they needed him in New Zealand. However, when he saw how sad his new friend was, he decided to stay with him a little longer.

Suddenly, the man the swallow had helped the night before came in front of the statue. He seemed quite fortunate to see the swallow, probably because he had been looking for him the entire night.

He explained to the swallow that thanks to him he had changed all his bad habits and even helped other people to recycle. For example, when he saw a group of young men playing with an old can, he told them that this was actually polluting and it opened their eyes. The swallow felt really happy about this and this feeling grew even more when he saw the little house the inhabitants of the city had built for him. It wasn't a normal house but a house made of recycled material, like cardboard, and love of course. The house had been built near the Prince so they could see each other. The swallow moved into his new house and decided to stay with the Prince to make the world better.

When the swallow woke up, he felt empty and tried to figure out why. He remembered his old love, a cute and lovely nuclear waste. He immediately felt really sad and the Prince noticed his sadness. He asked why he looked so sad and the swallow started telling him his love for the nuclear waste. The Prince tried to open the swallow's eyes by telling him that nuclear waste is one of the most polluting things and that nobody has figured out yet how to recycle them. Thanks to the prince the swallow realised how toxic it was to love a nuclear waste but he also started feeling quite weird around the Prince, but that was a



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different feeling. It was way more powerful and intense. For a few days he wondered why he felt that way and he found out that he was actually in love with the Prince.

On his side, the Prince had already realized his love for the swallow and decided to tell him how he felt about him. As everybody knows, the swallow felt the same way and they become a famous couple around the world known for their help and their act for the planet.

The swallow leaned between the prince' electric wires and started telling him the story of his life. Only a few birds were left in the world, a lot of them flew away and the others died. But he didn't want to make the prince sad so he stopped speaking. In the morning he saw that the prince was rusting, because he needed a lot of energy to recycle all that garbage. The prince was too generous, he was suffering but it wasn't important because he wanted to help the people so he went on. He wanted the city to become clean and beautiful to save the people and the world. The swallow became attached to the prince and decided to stay by his side as long as he could help him stopping the pollution. Because the swallow loved the earth and his new friend. The two worked together very well and helped each other.

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## LET THE HAPPY PRINCE SPEAK!

I would like to tell you the story of my life. When I was a prince, I used to be very selfish, and I never really cared about other people's sufferings. But now that I am a statue I started to notice something.

Despite the fact that I am a statue I have feelings. I can feel happiness but now I feel sad because I see the misery around the world and that disappoints me a lot! But I was really blessed because I met the little swallow.

Who is the little swallow? He is the best bird and my best friend. He is very kind and he has good-heart. He helps other people with the expensive and precious gems I gave him to save other poor people. He was every single time by my side.

At first the Swallow wanted to go to Egypt with his friends. During the trip, it started to rain and it was very cold, so the Swallow found shelter between my feet. At the beginning I felt strange and happy at the same time, because no one had noticed me before or people simply ignored me just because I was a statue. Then the swallow started to ask me



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questions about my life. I immediately understood that we were going to have a beautiful bond to the people who needed it. The swallow was surprised and wanted to help me in achieving my objective. The Swallow had a golden heart so I asked him if he wanted to be my messenger.

Night after night the swallow took the gems and gold plates I had to the poor people of the city.

After some time he began to find happiness in what he was doing, too.

But as soon as the citizens saw me bare and gray they knocked me down and threw me in a foundry, I felt the sadness flow through my veins and I never knew anything from that moment, until I saw a shining light appear before me. I looked around, it seemed like a dream, it was me, the swallow and a huge garden. I was in paradise, in the same place from which I am now telling this story.

The garden was full of beautiful flowers, red, blue and pink were everywhere. In front of me, there was a little and cute road with a lot of white stones. On the right side, there were trees with golden branches. Each of them had leaves of marble. On the left, there was a small river with silver drops which were falling on my hands. At the end of the path, the Swallow was waiting for me with a very big smile. He was in an immaculate house, with white and beautiful columns. My friends was opening his wings to me, and I ran to put my neck in his warm feathers. "I miss you so much, little Swallow, I believed I lost you forever". I said, but my words were cut by my tears falling on my cheeks. "No my friend. Today is our day. Now, we can act for the beauty of the Earth. Come, we have a lot of things to do. Don't cry, Happy Prince, because we are now together".

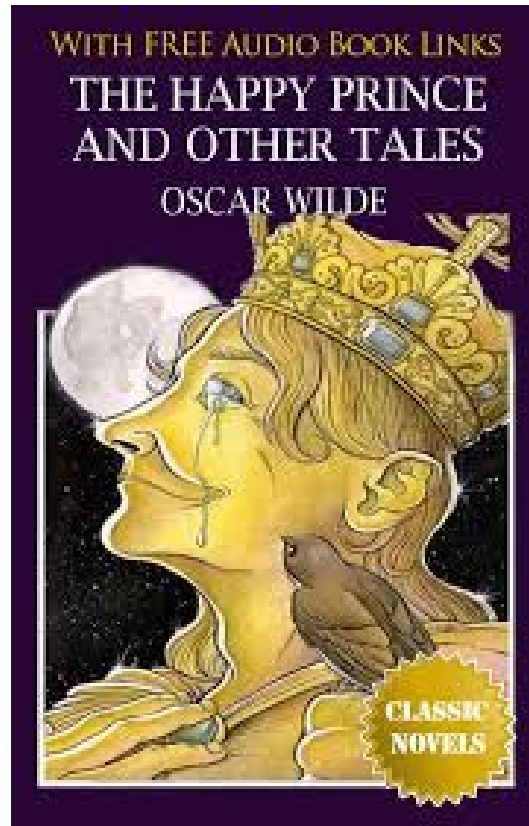
Now I feel like I can be happy forever, here with my little swallow in this amazing place.

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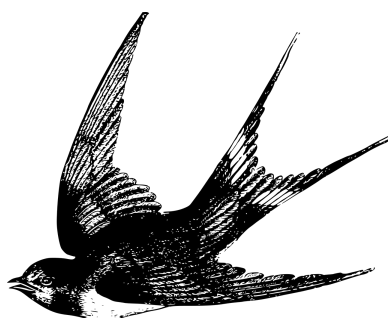




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## THE SWALLOW'S TALE



Is this the end... Am I gonna die here, now? Guess that's how it is then... But, but how did I end up in this situation? Shouldn't I be in Egypt now?

Oh yeah that's right, it wasn't much time ago... maybe a few days...wait no, it was six weeks... I was flying down a river after a big yellow moth and then I saw her. She was the most beautiful Reed I had ever seen. For once in my life I was in love and I was so attracted by her, that I left my friends in order to stay with her. "She has no money, and far too many relations", my friends said, but I didn't want to listen, so when autumn came they all flew away, and I was left alone.

After a short time, I understood she was too domestic and flirtatious, especially with the wind, and when she told me that she didn't want to come to Egypt with me, I left her, as I was very sad.

I didn't know it at this time, but it was the best decision I have ever made. Because thanks to that, I met my soulmate.

I flew during all that day and when the night came, I stopped in a town to rest and I lied down between the feet of a gilded statue with lots of precious stones on it. But suddenly three drops of water fell down right on me even if it was not raining at that moment.

So I decided to see where the drops were from.

The statue was weeping and so I asked him why. He told me that when he was younger and when he was a human he used to play and dance with his friends. Now that he was dead he could see all the misery of the whole city.

Then he told me that from a window he could see a woman, a seamstress that was embroidering passion-flowers on a satin gown. In the bedroom there was her ill son asking for oranges, but she couldn't give him any.

So the Happy Prince asked me to bring him the ruby that was on his sword-hilt. I had to go to Egypt but he convinced me, even if I don't like boys (because last summer they threw stones at me). So I delivered the ruby to the ill boy and, because I decided to be kind and helpful with him, I stayed with him for a little time, cooling him with the flap of my wings for



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he was feverish. Then I came back to the Happy Prince and told him I felt warm, although it was cold because of what I had done.

In spite of this, the next day I still wanted to go to Egypt and so I told my friend some stories about that country, but he said I had to help a playwright to finish a play because he couldn't manage to do so because it was too cold. After a long discussion, I accepted to take one of the Prince's sapphire eyes to him, even if I didn't want to do it from the beginning.

I did so and then I came back to my friend and, sitting on his shoulder, I told him stories about Egypt, the ibises on the Nile, the Sphinx and a great green snake venerated and fed by twenty priests; but he always wanted to hear about the population of the city. After I had reported him about some boys who were warming each other under a bridge while a watchman wanted them to go away from there, he asked me to give all the fine gold leaves that gilded him to the poor people, and in particular to those same boys, to try to help them. I totally agreed with him and accepted willingly.

Finally, winter arrived and when I realised I was going to die, I asked the Happy Prince, who now was all grey and without precious stuff on him, if I could kiss his hand, but he said that he loved me and so I had to kiss his lips. I did it and... and I'm really close to death now, yeah, I think the end has arrived for me. But now you know the whole story about me and my friend, the Happy Prince, and about our great friendship, and I hope that what we did in the last few days helped the poor people in the city, which the Prince and I both think is the most important thing. For this reason, I think I can rest happily in peace. I suddenly feel my soul rise upon the sky, while my body is still on the ground. I also feel all the pain and sadness leaving me, to make room for wisdom and happiness. Time is over.

Now that I'm just a lost soul in paradise, I can watch the peaceful and joyful atmosphere that spreads around the city, and I hope that it will never end.

Now that my mission is over I can have a good time to spread all the love I have inside me, over entire Heavens, exactly as the Happy Prince would have done.

We didn't know each other for a while, but what we have created and brought to this city is going to stay in people's minds, and they will never forget us. Never.

He is my most precious friend, my little angel, and the best person I have ever met.

The only thing I regret now is that I hadn't kissed him before the day I died.

I know that one day, I will meet the Happy Prince again, because soulmates always end up together, and we will be the brightest lovers Heavens have ever seen, it's promised !

*By Filippo N., Beatrice M.(Pesaro), Alex (Ioannina), Enrica, Andrea (Sassari), Marco Z., Eleonora M. (Saronno), Suzon L, Julie C ( Ste Anne).*

## MORE CONTENT

The Twin Library Project students worked also on the main themes of the story,  
***Friendship, Responsibility and Choice, Life values, Altruism.***

The result of their cooperative work were four presentations which will be visible at this [link](#).

Here are the names of the contributors:

Friendship: Elisa H., Victoria M., Anastasia R. (Pesaro), Sissy, Lydia (Ioannina), Laura, Ludovica (Sassari), Chiara, Alessandro Colombo, Edoardo V (Saronno), Lucie D, Lise M (Ste Anne).

Responsibility: Andrianna, Evelina (Ioannina), Raffaele, Ilaria (Sassari), Lorenzo P., Simone B (Saronno), Maylis F, Justine L (Ste Anne)

Life values: Samira, Jodie (Pesaro), Panagiota, Marianna (Ioannina), Chiara, Cecilia (Sassari), Sara, Alex, Ilaria (Saronno), Lucas S, Morgane J (Ste Anne).

Altruism: Anita M, Anna P. (Pesaro), Evi, Markella (Ioannina), Giorgia, Mary (Sassari), Kevin, Mirco (Saronno), Angele P, Celia B (Ste Anne).