

“The Ninth Dryad”



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Chapters:

Chapter One (Wilhelmshaven):	"The old factory"	page 2
Chapter I (Portogruaro):	"The dream"	page 6
Chapter Two (Wilhelmshaven):	"Duff and the Pan flute"	page 10
Chapter II (Portogruaro):	"Discoveries"	page 12
Chapter Three (Wilhelmshaven):	"Aphrodite's daughter!"	page 14
Chapter III (Portogruaro):	"The sacred wood"	page 16
Chapter Four (Wilhelmshaven):	"Zeus"	page 18
<i>Intermezzo (1)</i>	<i>"Ennéas story"</i>	page 20
Chapter IV (Portogruaro):	"Poseidon's menace"	page 23
<i>Intermezzo (2)</i>	<i>"Ennéa's story"</i>	page 26
Chapter V:	"Silvia meets Duff"	page 29
Chapter VI:	"The flute and the vision"	page 32
Chapter VII:	"The power of the necklace"	page 34
Chapter VIII:	"The metamorphosis of Zeus"	page 36
Chapter IX:	"The Truth and the Lie"	page 38
Chapter X:	"On the way to Italy"	page 40
Chapter XI:	"Carl solves the riddle"	page 42
Chapter XII:	"The destruction of Portogruaro"	page 43
Chapter XIII:	"Carl and Ennéa"	page 44
Chapter XIV:	"The battle begins"	page 47
Chapter XV:	"The final battle"	page 49
Chapter XVI:	"On Mount Olympus"	page 52
<i>Epilogue</i>		page 54
Picture credits		page 55

CHAPTER ONE (WILHELMSHAVEN): THE OLD FACTORY

(written by Erica, class 8e)

I wake with a start, drenched in sweat. And immediately I collide with another person.

"Duff, there is a monster in my room! May I sleep in your bed?"

Usually I hate it, when my little sister wants to stay in my bed, but today I'm happy that she is here. I had a crazy dream, really strange and creepy. I cuddle up to my sister. Her steady breath and the warmth of her little body make me drowsy. Three seconds later I'm fallen into sleep again.

When I wake again, there is an arm across my face. I put it aside carefully and go down into the kitchen in order to drink something.

Today is Saturday. Normally, you won't get me out of my bed before eleven o'clock on the weekend, but today is no normal day. Today Just thinking of this day makes me feel sick. How can he do this to me, Carl and Stella? Not even a year after what happened he is going to get engaged again?

I wish, mom was here. She would take my hands and say: "Audrey, darling...."

"Mom, you know that I'm not Audrey, but Duff!" Mom is the only one who refuses to use my nickname.

"You have to calm down, sweetheart, otherwise you will develop wrinkles."

"Oh mom..."

So everything would be ok again. But mom isn't here.

I take my mobile phone and make myself comfortable on the couch to call Anna-Lena. After the fourth ring she answers the phone. "Hello?" Her voice is sleepy.

"I have to tell you something very urgently. Listen...!"

"Duff, not now", she interrupts me. "It's half past seven. Go to bed again. We'll talk later." And she rings off.

At the same moment, dad comes down the stairs and greets me enthusiastically. "Good morning, Duff!" I stare at the stairs past him and go upstairs.

Stella is still asleep. I sit down to think.

Maybe I should mention that thinking is not my strength. It's my twin Carl who unfairly got this ability. Is this always the case with twins? One gets the good looking and the other the brains, or what?

No matter! In any case, I start to think of my dream.



I was standing in front of a great hall, like a large warehouse or an old factory, but decayed and crumbled. There was nearly nothing left of the walls, windows and floors. Just a lot of iron beams.

There was a sign in front of the place where the door must have been.

"No entry! Building could collapse."

But I clearly could see persons in the rear part of the hall. Therefore I entered as well. But I didn't meet what I had expected. Everything was full of strange guys with goat legs; a monster with twelve heads was quarreling with itself and hairy guys with horse butts ransacked the last shelves and secretary desks which were left in this factory building, looking for some long forgotten sweets.

Suddenly a perfect young woman comes to me, floating. Her feet almost didn't touch the floor.

"You are looking for your mother, I suppose", she said, her voice like that of an angel. "Come, I lead you towards her." She gives me a sign to follow her, I do so ... trip over my own feet and fell. Of course, my clumsiness is always noticable in the wrong moment. This is always the case.

And than I stand in front of my mother. She looks like she always does. A grown-up, taller version of myself. Wavy blond hair, long legs, her eyes ice blue.

"Why, mom? Why did you...?"

My sentence finished abruptly, because my eyes and nose were close to the floor again.

My mom laughed. "You are still my little clumsy princess. But we don't have much time. I would like to explain everything to you, but I'm not allowed to do so. But listen! At home, in the cellar of our house, there is an old cupboard. You'll find a model of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-bridge in it. On this miniature bridge, there is an X to be seen. This spot you'll have to find on the real Kaiser-Wilhelm-bridge. You'll find something which you must bring back to its real owner. If not, bad things will happen. I know that you will be able to do this. Bye, my darling."

At this point, I had woken up.

"Duff, would you come down to me, please?" I hear my father's voice. Slowly I go down and say, my voice cold as ice: "What?"

"Charlotte wants to talk to you." He leads me to the living room, closes the door and leaves me alone with *her*. Charlotte von Lindberg, successful business woman in her mid-thirties, vice director of "Manitowoc crane manufacture" and from today on new fiancée of my father. She is dressed in one of her characteristic trouser suits.

Don't get me wrong. She is kind, communicative and pretty, but she is not my mother.

When my mother had left us out of the blue eleven months ago, my father was just staring out of the window with glazed eyes, night after night, wiping away a tear now and then. Nights and days passed and he always remained like that. And then, suddenly, when Carl and I had forced him to take the car and go shopping, he came back with another woman, kissing her furiously, and with a stupid tattoo with blue stars. He had not even done the shopping.

I'm 13 years old. In almost all these years my mother was there for me. When she left, my heart was broken. After some months it was replaced by a kind of phantom heart. But also this one was shattered, when I saw my father coming home like that.

I'm still upset. "I'm sorry. I can't talk to you now", I tell Charlotte and run out of the room.



Half an hour later I lock my bike at a road sign. I stand in front of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-bridge, the characteristic sign of my home town, a city somewhere in the very periphery of North West Germany, at the shore of the North sea. I enjoy the view of the blue bridge and the wind from the North sea, just 200 metres away. I step forward and ... curse my clumsiness for

the umpteenth time. I tumble.

Before I drove off, I had been to the cellar of our house. And I REALLY had found a modell of the bridge in the cupboard, although I hadn't expected it. And now I'm standing, no, I'm lying here and I'm looking for the spot with the X on it. I can see the spot from here. It is directly in the middle of the bridge. And from the place where I'm lying now, my nose just an inch above the kerb, it seems that one of the pavestones is a bit different from the others. I rise, go to that pavestone and realize that it is loose. I take it away, turn to look if anybody is watching me. Then I put my hand into the gap and pull out a little box. I blow soil and dust off the lid and open it. I see a pan flute, old and shabby, a strange, nearly unrecognizable pattern on the



wood. I touch them carefully with my right hand. Slowly I take them out of the box. When the wind that comes from the open sea behind the bridge touches the pan flute I have the strange feeling that I can hear a melody, wild and sweet and tempting...

"Well, if I were you, I would leave this pan flute and go away", a voice says behind me. "Just keep out of the whole matter." I turn around. A man is standing next to me. He is about 50 years old, gaunt, with a moustache. "It's all your mother's fault. Now she has to face what she brought on herself. Just because she couldn't stop interfering for once." He looks at me, contemplating. "You inherited her looks. Well, on the other hand, you are a strolling catastrophe. I suppose it's not so nice to tumble constantly." He seems to know me exactly.

"Who are you?" I ask with an uneasy feeling.

"Oh dear, where are my manners?" he says mockingly. "My name is Mr H.Ades, life style coach and new manager of the Atlantic hotel." The *Atlantic* is the best hotel in town. "Oh, and I wanted to tell you another thing." He wrinkles his brow. "What was it?" He sneers. "Yes, I remember: Consider carefully what you are going to do! Your whole life depends on that consideration!" His voice is deep and hoarse now. He grins maliciously and disappears. Just disappears, vanishing into thin air. I touch the spot where he stood just a second before. Nothing.

I press the little box with the pan flute against my body and rush to my bike. I consider what to do now. I don't want to return to my father and his...fiancée. I have to rearrange my mind. I cycle to Anna-Lena's flat and ring the bell. But her mother tells me that she spends the weekend with her grandmother. Therefore I go to the sea shore, trying to think and understand. The sound of the waves seems to comfort me a bit. Then I decide to stroll through the town park and finally to go back home as I'm very hungry. But if I had known what was awaiting me there, I wouldn't have returned. NEVER!

CHAPTER I (PORTOGRUARO): THE DREAM

(written by the Italian team)

Everyday my mom takes me to school. I wake up really late and she's there. But today was different,



I woke up early for the first time in my life and decided to walk to school. I knew I had to walk towards the steeple and then just take left when I cross Via Martiri but right beside the steeple, crossing the Lemene river, are a pair of beautiful mills. The mills look like they were built by the Romans,

they catch your eye every time you cross the Lemene and its crystal-clear waters. I remember when I was little I used to beg my mom to take me to the mills just to watch them spin around and listen to the water churn.

In my first years at high school I used to sit on the banks of the river, gazing at the mills, and study for hours on end.

I cross the bridge opposite the mills and pass through a tight street that's between the bell tower and the church. The bell tower is so tall that it impresses you every time you stroll by it and it's so crooked that even a puff of wind will make it tip over. Everyday residents worry whether or not it will finally tip over and it's as if magic and mystery won't let it fall. I've always thought that time stopped right before it collapsed.





I stroll through Piazza della Repubblica and admire the scene of the Piazza's white horse statue. This is the usual meet-up point for boys and girls. The surrounding porticos are filled with people window shopping, drinking coffee and taking pictures.

Oh, I wish I could stay here all day!

After school I decide to stop at Parco Marzotto as I do every afternoon since I was little. Every time I need to concentrate or think I go to the park. It's a very special place for me because every time I go there I have flashbacks from my childhood. I always sit on a swing and think about what happened during my childhood.



The Oak trees seem to be embracing me with their height and green leaves. I lie on my back under the leaves of the great oaks that seem to float above me. They've already started to blossom, I can see their acorns everywhere throughout the branches. I'm so captivated by their beauty that I fall asleep.

And there, in my dreams, I see the same arch that I'd been seeing for some time. It seems to be ancient, but there are some aspects of it that seem modern like the bright red bricks. The top of the arch presents decorations of beautiful flowers.

But one thing bothers me: I don't know where it leads because every time I got close to entering I would wake up.

But this time everything seems different... I go through the arch without waking up and see signs written in a strange language that I don't understand. The building is empty and I go towards the stairs.

I walk through empty corridors, nobody is there, I can't hear no voice nor noise ... I feel like I'm floating, and all this silence seems so unreal.





Suddenly I find myself in front of another building, an ancient one with its stone walls still visible. I can see a statue that resembles Hercules during his twelve labors. How did I get there?

Suddenly my body starts to shiver and I hear a faint whisper brought to me by the wind:

“The girl with bronze hair and emerald eyes will save the forgotten forest with the help of the girl with gold hair. Search for it and bring it back here or all will be lost by the hands of the almighty trident.”

I think to myself: “Am I going crazy? It must be that I’m only tired”.

While I am immersed in my thought a lump of fur jumped onto my chest and started to lick my face. “Jupy, what are you doing here?” I look into his eyes and understand that I’m in danger...

Jupy is my dog, he’s a White shepherd and has always been by my side. He has fluffy fur and bright blue eyes. Even though he’s old he looks as young as me.

We’ve had a special bond and we’ve been understanding each other since our childhood.

I stare down and my watch: “Holy cow, what time is it?” I hear my brother’s voice: “It’s six o’clock”.

My brother Luca is 16 years old, has brown hair and green eyes like mine. We got both our eye color from our dad. He was a tall man but he’s not with us anymore. Since he’s gone, Luca has become a sort of vandal, but his work is limited, only doing graffiti on the walls of old houses. I’ve had the opposite reaction to daddy’s death, I’ve become isolated and lonely.

He yells: “Mum’s waiting for you and she’s angry”

“I’m coming” I answer even though I know what’s waiting for me at home.

I stand up and realize that my hairpin is missing. “Luca, do you know where my hairpin is?”

“No, but hurry up! Leave that useless hairpin here.” That hairpin wasn’t useless as it was the last memory I had of my father.

After grabbing my backpack, and picking up all the school books I’d dropped, I found it. I could see it shining in the grass, its silver crescent moon sends a warm feeling down my spine. Every night when I look at the moon I feel cozy and warm. I always keep it on me, it gives me a sense of invincibility. I only take it off when I take a shower, and even in that short amount of time I feel

vulnerable and weak. I only lost it once, it was the most horrific experience of my life. I got lucky and found it a couple days afterwards.

When I get home the first thing I can see is the worry in my mum's face: "Where have you been, Silvia?"

"Nowhere mum, I was just strolling around town."

"You had me worried sick, I was about to call the police" And then she starts to cry. I can't bear to see my mum crying so I try to talk to her. As soon as I get close she stands up, high above me, and says:" Silvia, go to your room, you're grounded!"

Once I get to my room my phone starts ringing, I look at the caller and see it's a private number. Thinking it's a joke I don't answer. When they call me for the fifth time I answer and tell them to stop as it's bothering me. And when I fall silent, I hear a faint, warm voice.

CHAPTER TWO (WILHELMSHAVEN): Duff and the Pan Flute

(written by Erica and Mascha, class 8e)

I have a closer look at the Pan flute. I never have touched such an instrument before. I blow into it and I really manage to play a kind of scale. The last tone has hardly faded, before a strange glitter



appears which becomes more and more solid and finally turns into a bloke with horns and the legs and hindquarters of a goat. He looks suspicious to me, especially as he bleats: "Hey, ciao bella, how are you, mon amie? Wanna have fun with a hot goat...god...?" OMG, he is so drunk! "Just some fun, come on..." He slurs and I shrink back from his stench of goat and alcohol. "Go away!" I say, "Go away!"

"Ok, ok", he takes a seat two metres away. He seems offended. "But I need my flute back. Otherwise nature will wither and the sacred grove will die. No tree, no plant, not even a mushroom. Go, search for her, for the nymph who is the cause of this terrible situation! She is imprisoned. I can't tell you where. I'm not allowed to." He seems quite sober now and very nervous. "You won't be able to fulfill this task at your own. You need another..." His voice fades. "I have to leave..." The strange glitter appears

again. "You have to fulfill your task as quickly as possible. Pay attention on the moon. Remember: You can't do it aloo..." He is vanished as suddenly as he has appeared, leaving nothing behind but a smell of alcohol.

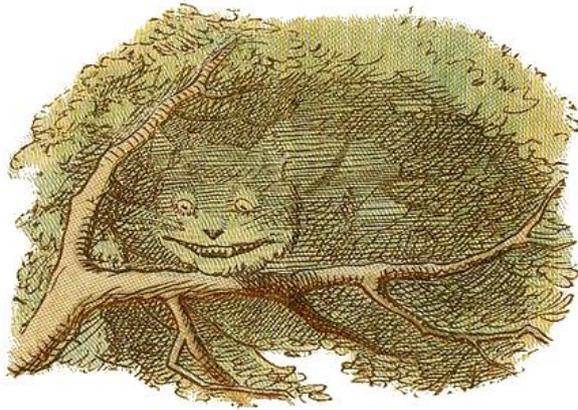
Great! He could have given me some more information! Why should I pay attention on the moon?

I need to clear my head. I take my bike and go to the municipal park. There I spend my time, hours and hours, watching children on the play ground, watching mothers playing with their kids, faces full of love and hope. I watch a little yellow butterfly fluttering around and a little child who is happily running after the butterfly. And I remember the moments when I was here with my mom as a little child. I remember the moments full of hapiness and hope. But not long...

"If I were you, I wouldn't waste my time observing the happiness of other people." Mr H.Ades is sitting next to me. "I would pay attention to my own problems. Because your problems are dreadful and they are getting worse and worse." His voice is malicious as ever. While he is talking, I see a

little tin box flashing in his hand. Without another word he opens the box and the yellow butterfly which was sitting on a flower just a moment ago, disappears in it. I notice a little detail on the box, a little wind rose in a circle. Then the box and Mr H.Ades are gone. I begin to hate this vanishing into thin air!

The families start to go home now, but I stay in the park, thinking about the strange changes in my life. I hardly notice that it has become dark. Suddenly I see the moon! It is a crescent moon. It



reminds me of the grin of the Cheshire cat in "Alice in Wonderland" and of the words of that goat guy! Maybe it is an illusion, but the moon seems to be lighter than usual. But ok, I must have hallucinations; how else can I explain all these strange things which happened to me today. And now I see a beautiful woman standing next to the moon, as small and light as the moon itself. I rub my eyes, but the woman waves to me. She gives me a sign to follow her. Then she disappears.

CHAPTER II (PORTOGRUARO): DISCOVERIES

(written by the Italian team)

The voice repeats the same phrase: *“The girl with bronze hair and emerald eyes will save the forgotten forest with the help of the girl with gold hair. Search for it and bring it back here or all will be lost by the hands of the almighty trident.”*

I feel it invade my body and suddenly I get up against my will.

I head towards my bedroom door, even if I don't want to, open it and leave. My body knows where to go on its own. I start to head towards the bus station but I don't know why.

After some time I reach the station and that invasive presence leaves my body.

I find myself in front of an old, abandoned factory.

Then, out of nowhere, something pushes me in. I know I shouldn't go in as clearly stated by the sign: “No entry. Building could collapse.” I'm scared and I know I'm doing something illegal but I start to hear the voice again: *“The girl with bronze hair and emerald eyes will save the forgotten forest with the help of the girl with gold hair. Search for it and bring it back here or all will be lost by the hands of the almighty trident.”*

I go in thinking that the voice might stop if I do so.

The old and huge building is completely empty, everything seems to have been abandoned a long time ago, the windows are broken, all the metal is rusted, all around is desolate and scary. I look around searching for a reason to be here and then I stop as I see a green-golden glow under a crane. I head towards the glow and find a set of stairs. I once again get pushed in and see something I would never imagine to see in a place like this: trees, trees that are centuries old and wonderful flowers and plants. I wonder: “Am I still in Portogruaro?” and all I want to do is stroll through this forest and find clues, hints and answers.

I'm walking through the wood when suddenly it starts to get windier and I see light coming from above my head. I turn around and don't see anything that could originate the light. Despite that I keep seeing the light and start to get annoyed that I can't find where it's coming from. I keep walking even though I'm bothered and suddenly I feel something in my hair, I put my hand on it and touch my hairpin. My hairpin is glowing!!!!

I immediately throw it on the ground and run away.

What's happening here? What is the light, and that strange glowing? I'm scared, but I'm lost without my hairpin ... I'd be better going back and retrieve it.

Oh, boy! it's glowing even brighter than before. I start walking around the wood and suddenly the hairpin blinds me ... what's going on?

Now I come to see and I hear a strange and mysterious voice coming from a tree: "Come my darling, we have so much to talk about".

I cautiously look at the tree. There's a naked woman that whispers:

"Hello dear, it's been too long since we last talked."

I respond "Who are you?"

Well, I'm your grandma, Silvia ... such a beautiful name, your father chose it and I loved the choice!"

"My grandma died many years ago, at least that's what my dad said."

While all this is happening I'm not frightened, which is surprising. It feels almost as this woman was familiar, as if I knew her.

We start to talk and my grandma explains me everything: "My dear Silvia, don't be scared. As you know, I'm your grandmother and I was once the lover of Apollo. Your father was a beautiful child..."

As all this is going on I think: "I'm Apollo's granddaughter (yeah the Greek god that loves archery!)". I just wanted to know one thing so I interrupt her and ask her why my hairpin started to glow. To that question she answers: "This hairpin once belonged to Artemis, your great-aunt. It was given to me as a gift for conceiving your father. When he turned 18 I thought it was time for him to have it."

I interrupt her and say: "So how did I get it?"

"As I was about to tell you (she seems sort of irritated that I've interrupted her twice already), one day your father wanted to take you here, to this wood, so that we could meet and know each other. Once you two got here a wild beast came out of the shrubs and was about to attack you. He instinctively shielded you from the beast's jaws and took the blow. As he was about to die he gifted you the hairpin and said: "My love, never let go of this hairpin, it will keep you safe no matter where you are..."



CHAPTER THREE (WILHELMSHAVEN): “APHRODITE’S DAUGHTER!”

(written by Erica, class 8e)

I lie on my bed, confused and hopeless. I can't forget the conversation with this creepy Mr. Ades. "It's all your mother's fault." This sentence torments me. Although it's late in the night, I can't sleep. I keep asking myself: "What did you do, mom? And why did you leave us?" As I am lost in thoughts, I don't notice that I am no longer alone. I only become aware of my father's fiancée, when she clears her throat. I look up.

„We didn't finish our conversation this morning“, she says with a strictness which I don't know yet. Usually Charlotte is determined, but friendly and has those warm earth-brown eyes which look so kind, that you can't believe that she ever could do anything bad. But now! Her eyes are rigid and no longer brown, but ice blue. I look closer... Indeed! Her eyes are blue!

Her tone is urgent. "Audrey, you have to trust me now! No matter what will happen in a minute, you mustn't believe him. He can be very convincing in this condition..."

We are interrupted abruptly. A kind of portal opens in the middle of my room and out comes Mr. Ades, followed by a guy whose skin is covered with blue stars. But the creepiest thing is that this guy somehow is there and at the same time isn't there. His appearance changes continuously. First, he looks like a mighty swirl of pure black darkness and then he seems to be like... DAD?

Horrified I look at him. „DAD?! What...? Why...? For heaven's sake, who or WHAT are you, dad?“

"If you could stop talking for a moment, I would explain it to you." Mr. Ades looks contemptuously at me. "Your father is just a normal human being, unlike your mother by the way, who is the goddess Aphrodite. Don't stare at me so unbelievably, girl. You are Aphrodite's daughter. That's a fact."

"But mom behaves ... well... like a normal mom. Whereas dad or whatever he is..."

„He *is* your dad. He is just under the influence of some very old deities, Ouranos and Chaos who support the Titans against the Olympian gods in a ... well... interesting affair. That's why your mother panicked and disappeared. To protect you and your brother and sister, I think.“

The guy with the star covered skin interrupts him. His voice is strange and mechanic. „Come to *our* side, child. Then I won't harm you. I will give you whatever you want. But get away from here. Never come back! Come with us!“

„Why should I come with you? If you really are my dad, you should become normal again. You should think about Carl, Stella and me. We have already lost mom.“

Dad seems to hesitate. The darkness around his head is less thick now, the tattoos on his skin more faded. Then with a jerk he moves towards me, with movements like a marionette's.

I'm horrified. I close my eyes. I notice that Charlotte approaches my father. A loud bang makes me open my eyes again. The nightmare is gone. Nevertheless, I can't contain myself any longer. I start crying and have no idea what I shall do – with a goddess as mother, a father with a black swirling head and all these persons appearing from nowhere and disappearing again. Charlotte pats my back while I'm crying my eyes out.

CHAPTER III (PORTOGRUARO): THE SACRED WOOD

(written by the Italian team)

Only now that I know what my origins are I start to remember

It was just like any other day, me and my dad decided to take a stroll through the wood, those would be the woods where I'd lose him, one of my favourite people in the whole universe. But at that moment I didn't know that I would lose him, I just thought it was a nice day.

That wood was enormous, high oaks soared above everything and, on the ground, there were bushes filled to the brim with bright red berries and other fruits.



In the middle of the wood there was a clearing. There was the home of the centaurs, the hamadryads and the dryads. I could see all these things only when dad was with me, I remember the first time I saw them, the dryads with the body of a tree and the centaurs with their horse body. The centaurs played exquisite music through their flutes and this music was essential to the wood as it helped the plants and trees to stay strong and healthy.

That day we went to the wood in search of berries. He took me through parts of the wood that I didn't even know existed, it was almost as if he wanted to show me something. I particularly remember the sense of security and warmth that that wood gave me. But now I understand that these feelings were also there because of the connection I had with that wood. Every single living thing had a purpose, plants weren't just simple plants, they had their own purpose. They were protecting me and every creature living there.

When I get back from my memories, out of seemingly nowhere, my grandma shows up. Before she can start talking I ask: "Why is this place so hidden?"

"A long time ago Apollo and Artemis gathered their thoughts on what the future of this wood should be. The final decision was to build a factory above it so as to avoid contact with human beings. They shared their decision with Zeus who, in turn, made it so that a factory would be built."

And I think: "I wonder how long this wood will continue existing. I want it to last as long as I live since it's really the only place I feel at home and it's the last memory of my father that I have."

When I "wake up" from my thoughts, there's no trace of my grandma. So, thinking she wandered off, I start searching for her and think "How is it possible that she disappeared just like that?!"

I'm walking through the foliage when I see a centaur coming towards me and he's yelling "Silvia, Silvia". I answer: "It's me!" thinking that it is impossible for the centaur to know who I am.

"Silvia, they're here, you have to run now!" He looked so frightened and he kept getting closer, "Run! They're coming!". Then he stopped in front of me and I immediately ask "What's your name?"

"Marco". Marco had a robust build and pale skin, his eyes were sky blue and he had two little horns coming out of his head. So after at least knowing his name I ask: "Who's here?"

"Possy Eidon!"

"And why should I ru..-" and he interrupts me " He also brought telchines with him!" And in this moment I know I have to run, I understand that Marco isn't kidding around.

I start running towards the stairs and don't wave goodbye to anyone, that's because Marco told me to not stop and just get away.

I'm frightened but, eventually, I make it to the stairs. I start climbing them, I'm scared of what was up there but at the same time I'm curious.

CHAPTER FOUR (WILHELMSHAVEN): Zeus

(written by Erica and Mascha, class 8e)

Zeus sits at his desk, thick Harry-Potter-spectacles on his eyes, and flicks through the next files.

He has been working in the financial office of Wilhelmshaven for many years now.

As he speaks German with a strong accent, he pretends to be a Dutchman, *Joop Pieter van Boven*.

Everyone calls him uncle Joop.

After some minutes he looks out of the window dreamily. „Where are the days when I was in my blossom?“ he thinks. „Big Zeus! Muscular! Attractive! Now I’m an office sitter, a wimp. Once my brothers Hades and Poseidon envied my countless affairs and my famous half-god children. And now? They laugh at me! They bully me and treat me as the little brother who I am. Heavens! I can’t even stand my home on Mount Olympus any more. Whenever I beam myself home, Hera has her coffee table gossip with her friends. Then she notes me, wrinkles her nose and changes the subject. No, thanks, I prefer my one-room flat here in Wilhelmshaven.“

So he sits there and dreams away, when the mayor enters the room, puts three other files onto his desk and leaves without greeting.

Zeus ignores the stack of files. He muses: „It’s not my fault that I am as I am. It’s my damned father! He made the curse that I have to live in this ridiculous shape of a human being for two centuries, as soon as I deceive my wife Hera for the 10.000th time.“

And then he turns back to his work. Page, stamp, paper into the file. Page, stamp, paper into the file. Page, stamp...

His mobile phone rings. It’s again Poseidon. „Hey, baby brother, still in the office?“

Zeus rings off and gets to work again. Since Poseidon has become a big shot in the shipping business (container vessels, ship yards), he was even more contemptuous. Zeus sighs. Maybe he isn’t made for the upper league of gods, only for the life of mortal men. Only when there is a hopeless conflict among them, the other gods come to him and ask for advice. But he is even more unpopular than Mr Cripplesmith Hephaistos. And he still is the god of the oracles. Everybody thinks that the oracle of Dodona doesn’t exist anymore and that the venerable old oak trees of the oracle are silent now. That’s right. The files, however, that contain the riddles of the oracle, are

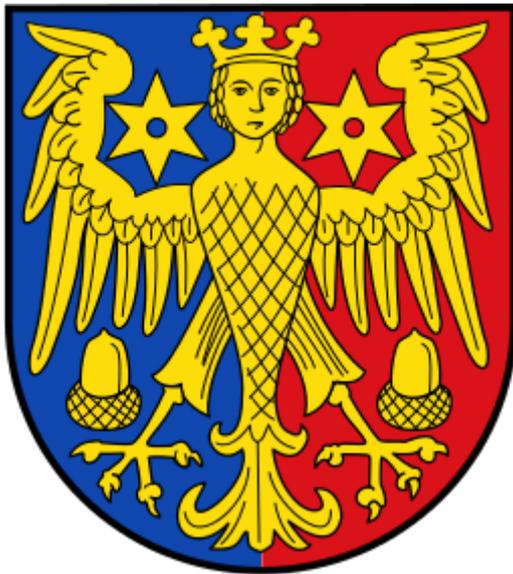


archived in a storage room in the financial office of the town hall of Wilhelmshaven. He sighs again. The sad thing is, that he himself has become too old to solve these riddles.

He looks at the staples of papers, decides that he has worked enough for today, rises and leaves the office.

INTERMEZZO (I): Ennéa's Story

(written by Ermely and Jana, class 8e)



She has been sitting in this coat of arms for more than 500 years. Only once a month she is allowed to leave it, for exactly four hours. If she would leave Aurich during these four hours, all hell would break loose. The city would be destroyed. Ok, she could live with this. But nature would wither and the sacred wood, *her* sacred wood, would die. No tree, no plant, not even a mushroom left. And when nothing is left of the sacred wood, she, too, has to die. Go straight to hell, to Hades, the most arrogant, the most self-regarding god. She hasn't met him for a long time. That is the only good thing about Aurich, the city in the cold north. But after all these years she is still longing so much for the

warmer regions and her beloved trees. Although 2000 years have passed, she remembers exactly the day when everything began:

It was one of those days when all the streets were empty and also all the fields and woods. A new theatre play was going to take place in the theatre of Iulia Concordia and nobody wanted to miss it. Also she was going. She was dressed as any young country woman. Nobody could know who or what she was.

Nevertheless she was careful. Artemis mustn't see her. Artemis wouldn't be pleased about this journey to the oppidum, especially as Clytus should be the main actor. Clytus, the star, the darling of all women, young and old.

Her name was Ennéa. A Greek name which means "number nine". She was one of the twelve famous ones. Of course, there were many more than twelve Dryads here in the region. But only twelve were connected to trees which came from seeds which Aeneas and his camerads had brought to Italy when they had escaped the fall of Troy. Artemis would be furious if she knew that one of these twelve Dryads had a date. But Ennéa did so. Clytus wanted to talk to her after the performance. He had invited her to a taberna.

She saw the performance, she listened to the applaus. And then he came to her and showed her the theatre and all the actors who were playing for him. Her presented her with a wonderful necklace. She went to the taberna with him and his friends. It was at new moon: no moon light, but many shining stars. They enjoyed the time, sang and drank all night long. Suddenly she got a terrible headache. The new day had already begun and she thought it must be because of all the alcohol. But the pain got worse and filled her heart as well. A minute later she felt how something pulled her, like a strong magnet which tried to attract her. Then she didn't feel anything any longer...

Her tree had been cut down. She was bound to this tree forever, unless the wood was splitted in very little parts. Then she would have to age and finally to die, like a mortal being. But now she was kept in her tree which was made into planks for a ship, together with other trees of the sacred wood of Portogruaro.



Several centuries she was inside this ship, together with her fellow dryads. She experienced several storms and shipwrecks, but every time the ship was rebuild. First it was a Roman ship, then a mediaval merchant vessel, then a cog of the hanseatic league, finally a Dutch ship. One day the crew met a particularly strong storm. She could feel that it wouldn't last long until the ship would burst and leave her free. Then she felt the pain again as if somebody tried to tear out her heart. In this moment the ship broke apart.

The ship run aground somewhere at the coast, just at the Jade bay. It was the storm flood in January 1511, three days after new moon. It was the place where Wilhelmshaven was founded some centuries later. At the time of this happening there was only nature: wadden sea and dunes, the howling of the wind and the crying of sea gulls.

Many died, sailors, merchants, passengers and dryads whose wooden planks had shattered into thousand parts. But Ennéa was lucky. There was enough left of her wooden plank; therefore she was still alive. Together with few others she reached the shore.

Those few who had survived were busy with themselves. They all were wet, cold and weak. They didn't even wonder who this strange woman was who suddenly had joined their company and who wore ragged cloths, but a wonderful necklace with shining pearls.

In the meantime:

"Go, search!" Leopold shouted.

To tell you who Leopold was: He should be Ennéa's undoing. He saved her life, but...

He was smart. He was handsome. A merchant and a captain. He was looking for the wrecked ship, together with his dog Ajax and his companions. Maybe there were some survivors. Maybe some goods were floating on the waves or the waves had brought some merchandise to the shore.

"Hey, Ajax, where are you going?" The dog was barking. It seemed that it knew where it should go. The dog came directly to her, since dryads – as any other nymphs in the service of Artemis, the "mistress of animals" – have a close connection to animals.

CHAPTER IV (PORTOGRUARO): POSEIDON'S MENACE

(written by the Italian team)

As soon as I get to the top of the stairs I see some construction workers who are inspecting the factory. They look at each other and then say "All clear, sir, you can come in now." As soon as they've given the all-clear I can see some sort of mist start to gather around their feet. I get scared and hide behind some old machinery. Then my attention shifts to the main entrance, there a tall robust man comes in. He is dressed in suit and tie, which is a little exaggerated. He too starts to have mist gather around his feet and all of a sudden the man and the construction workers transform. I can see that their head isn't human anymore, it is scaly and slimy and it didn't have the shape of a human's head. I get really scared when they start to get taller and taller, then what looks like gills begin to grow on their "neck". I am so tempted to leave but I know that I have to stay here. I look back up to their "faces" and see something horrifying: I see eyes that are darker than anything I've ever seen before. Then, on their arms, spines start to grow, they are full of them from head to toe. I go really silent and my heartbeat starts to slow down. I think that they would kill me if they found me. Then an eerie feeling makes me look towards their waist, I feel somewhat relieved to find out that from the waist



down they are human. Their human body looks robust and it is full of muscles, like a bodybuilder.

And the man, the man has a more voluptuous transformation - it is bigger, brighter and better - into the god of the sea, Poseidon.

I can't believe that Poseidon is in front of me!!! The god of the sea was in ancient times strong, mighty and muscular but since he started to live in our world he looks like an ordinary mortal. His physical appearance has considerably changed; no traits are referable to what he used to be, except his thick, white beard which is also long and ruffled and covers his fleshy lips. His eyes are deep-sea blue and his long, wavy hair falls onto his shoulders. His build is robust but not as

muscular as it used to be; his round paunch most of the times hidden by a shirt and tie, looks as if it is sustained by the belt of his wide trousers which cover his legs.

And he speaks: "Finally, I will be capable of destroying this god forsaken forest. Oh, it's been a plan of mine for so long, too long." He is meditating with his fist leant on his mouth hiding a grimace which harbours thoughts of revenge; the god of the sea is meditating and conniving a stratagem.

He has already started to rub his hands as he is looking forward to starting work and, entering the factory, he begins to outline some ideas: "There I could place the bigger ships, while down there the smaller ones. Everything will be just perfect and my shipyard will soon be completed".

He bursts into a wicked laughter and leaves waiting for the day of his rise.

The telchines respond: „What should we do sir?". "Nothing for now, just keep a low profile and keep inspecting the factory. When we know the location of the wood I will personally destroy it with such unimaginable pleasure"

"Yes, sir!"

As soon as they stop speaking I am in shock. From all that I've read about Poseidon I thought he was a nice dude but as it turns out now he wants to destroy my grandma's home. How could a god be so mean, how could he destroy all this?

Poseidon is immersed in a cloud of thoughts that surround his mind.

He whispers in a tone that I can barely hear "If I destroy this wood she will die and I will finally have the necklace."

All of this confuses me: "wood, necklace, she" I can't make sense of it all.

He continues to whisper: "I will bring back the titans, overthrow my brother and finally have the revenge I seek."

Poseidon's eyes are filled with anger and his whole face is tensed up. Shivers go down my spine and I get goose bumps on my arms. I also want to leave but for some reason I can't, something won't allow me to. Maybe Poseidon's presence attracts me.

His knuckles are all white because of the fists he's making and he keeps whispering "She will pay! If it wouldn't have been for her I would've overthrown my brother a long time ago!" Right then he launches a steel beam across the factory and breaks off some of the wall.

The telchines look at him, I can feel that even they are scared. The god continues to throw anything he can around as he looks for the wood.

"That old thief Clytus stole an important object from me, a white pearl necklace brought to me from Gaea. It shines bright as the Sun in and outside the water and it's as smooth as silk despite it being made from pearl. This beauty also has a dark side, I will finally get what I've wanted for centuries.



I'm worried because whoever has the necklace is practically invincible, and I'm sure that this person is still alive because of the protective power it has. I must find her so that I can kill her and get the necklace. I still need it for my master plan: I will summon the Titans and finally I'll be able to control Mount Olympus.

So I really need to have the necklace. I will destroy the home of her who possesses it and hopefully this will make the thief return the necklace."

I try to be as quiet as possible. I'm so scared, I can see his glowing red eyes, his tense muscles and his menacing expression. I've never seen a person so angry in my entire life.

INTERMEZZO (II): Ennéa's Story

(written by Ermely and Jana, class 8e)

Leopold followed the dog. He saw wood on the water and on the shore, many sailors, some injured, some dead. He also saw Ennéa, frozen, in a miserable condition, but in a natural prettiness, undisturbed by the catastrophe which just had happened to her. So it ended as it must: He came to her, checked if she was still alive, brought her to his horse and took her home to Gödens, a small but prosperous merchant town some miles away.

There she stayed with him. What else should she do? She longed for her old life. But Italy was far away. Centuries had passed. Clytus was dead. Only the necklace reminded her off him. She didn't know what had happened to the sacred wood of Portogruaro. And she couldn't leave because those parts of her tree that had survived the shipwreck were still in this region. And there was no wife in Leopold's home, no children, just a servant and an old maiden aunt who run the household for him and an old mother, a wealthy widow, who lived some miles away in a town called Aurich. So of course she fall in love with him. As she couldn't tell him that she was a dryad and had been captured inside the planks of a ship for centuries, she invented a story that must make sense for him. She told him that she was the daughter of a merchant from Venice, but that she had lost all her family and that she would like to begin a new life. But she knew that this was dangerous, because a nymph, a servant of Artemis, wasn't allowed to have a love affair with mortal men.

On the other hand, how should Artemis know? Her new home was in a barbarian country with very few contact to the south. Even Hamburg and Bremen, the next hanseatic towns, were hundreds of miles away. Italy was in another world. She didn't even know what had happened to the old Greek and Roman gods. Did they still exist?

Oh, yes, they did!

One day - some years had passed – Ennéa was on the market to buy some things for a meal in the evening. There should be guests, business partners of Leopold. When she came home, she met a young man. Oh no! She recognized him immediately.

"Hello, Ennéa. May I introduce someone to you?" Leopold said. "This is Hinrich – or better: Enrico, because originally he is from Italy, like you. I met him in Aurich, at my mother's. Enrico visited her and told her that his father, a rich Italian merchant, has been a business partner of my father."

What a liar! Ennéa thought. Certainly the young man's name was neither Hinrich nor Enrico.

"And now Enrico is in Hamburg" Leopold continued. "He manages his father's business there and he wants to renew old contacts." At this moment Hinrich-Enrico winked at her. Leopold didn't notice it.

"Yes, beautiful la..lady", the guest said. "I want to renew o...o...olllld contacts." Ennéa could smell that he was drunk. As he used to be all the times when she had met him.

"I go to the kitchen and look if everything is prepared", Ennéa said.

Some minutes later the guest followed. He behaved strangely. "I have to talk to you, li...hick...little nymph."



When she didn't answer he took his flute and played a sad little tune. "Times have changed, little nymph. Monks came and merchants. But the old gods and heroes are still alive. At least some of us. Some parts of the sacred wood have been destroyed. Some of the ancient gods and heroes have left. They lead the life of mortal men and women. Even Aphrodite went to the North. She tries to be a good wife and mother. More a Hera than an Aphrodite, if you ask me. They forget about their past. As you, little nymph. But Artemis has sent me. She reminds you to remain in her service. We need your loyalty. You are one of THE twelve dryads, Ennéa."

He played his tune again. Or maybe the flute sounded at its own.

Ennéa thought. Then she said with determination: "I'm sorry, Pan. My heart belongs to Leopold!"

"To a mortal man?" he cried. "Great Artemis!"

And then hell broke loose. Somehow Artemis must have heard his cry. Her face appeared in a mirror. She was furious. She shouted something. It sounded terrible. Ennéa didn't understand the words. They were from an ancient language, older than Latin, Greek or Trojan, as old as the earth. But she felt how her body changed. When she tried to say something, only a strange cry escaped her mouth, the hoarse cry of a crane or heron. Another face appeared in the mirror, the face of Aphrodite. Both goddesses seemed to fight.

"It is against the law!" Artemis shouted.

"But it is love", Aphrodite answered. "You can't do that to her."

"I can", Artemis said and added in a mocking voice: "Let's see if she ever will attract another mortal man – in her new shape!"

Pan ran to the mirror. Somehow he managed to get into it. It seemed that he tried to intervene.

Then he was besides Ennéa again, without his pan flute.

"I'm sorry", he said, "she cursed you. You will remain like that. And you will have to stay in this region. That's bad, really bad, because we need you in the sacred wood."

Remain like what? Ennéa asked herself.

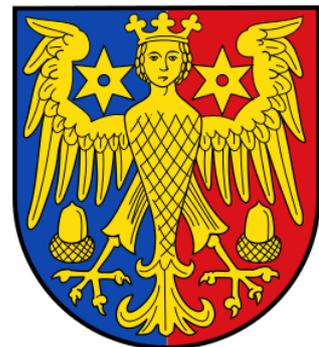
"But there is hope", Pan added. "Aphrodite understands you. She is confident that she finally will manage to send you help. When a descendant of the family of Artemis in the South and a descendant of the family of Aphrodite in the North will unite, the quarrel between law and love will end and my flute will sound again. This will set you free. I hope this will happen soon. Because we need you in the sacred wood. And I need my flute back!"

Then he was gone. Ennéa looked into the mirror. She started back, horrified. The vision of Artemis and Aphrodite had disappeared. The mirror was a mirror again. And it showed the head of a pretty woman, but the body and the sharp claws of a bird of prey. The head was her own.

Artemis' curse had turned her into a harpy.

A gust of wind came through the kitchen window. It was like a swirl and carried her away over fields and moors. Finally she was sucked into the highest part of the tower of the town hall.

And there she has been in a coat of arms for more than 500 years now.



CHAPTER V (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): SILVIA MEETS DUFF

(Niccolò – Emely – Elena – Elias - Margerita)

“All exchange students, please report to bus platform 5 for pickup, last call” reads the sign at track 3 of Wilhelmshaven central station. There is no way I am going to make it in time. As I get to the platform I can see that the bus is pulling away so I start running and yelling “Stop! Stop! Please, stop!”. The bus stops and I get on. Everyone is staring at me. The whole ride takes half an hour and in that time I see a beautiful city: the shiny blue sea, Kaiser Wilhelm Brücke, the blossoming trees and Wattenmeerhaus museum. Then I get to my destination, my host family. They’re very nice people, a family of 5: the father Michael, a tall bald man, is waiting for me outside. Inside three children are waiting for me: the youngest, Stella, is jumping around all excited to see me. The only boy, Carl, is sitting down and looks identical to the girl, Duff, that is sitting next to him. They both have blonde hair and ice blue eyes. The fiancée of the father, Charlotte von Lindberg, pretends to mind her own business, but I can see that she observes me carefully. Carl takes my luggage and puts it upstairs and Duff shows me around the house. It is a two-story, five bedroom, three bathroom house with a great view of the Nordsee Bay. I will share a bedroom with Duff during the next four weeks. Then she takes me out to the garden. It is full of roses and tulips. The next day she takes



me to school, Neues Gymnasium Wilhelmshaven. I am introduced to the principal and my teachers. I start an hour late, at 9, after I’ve met everyone. The school building is made of bright red bricks. When I go to my classroom, I have to pass a door. It’s an arch. The top of the arch presents decorations of beautiful flowers...

Zeus, a municipality worker in the financial office of Wilhelmshaven, decides to go jogging. A difficult time seems to be in store for the Olympian gods and after all he himself is the chief of the gods - or at least he used to be the chief when he was younger and fitter. He is heading to the Jade Weser Port, because usually there is noone in the early morning. He puts on his new jogging shoes and starts running. Panting heavily he reaches dock 5 when suddenly in front of him Aphrodite appears. She isn’t dressed in typical clothes but rather in a sporty track suit.

“Hey daughter!” he says surprised

“Hello daddy, I need your help with something.”

"Sure." When his daughter Aphrodite talks to him, she usually wants something. "There's a dryad trapped in a coat of arms in Aurich and I want her to be able to go back home. Her name is Ennéa and she is needed in Portogruaro because Poseidon wants to destroy the sacred wood."

Also this is no news to him. His brothers Poseidon and Hades always want to destroy something which is beautiful and in the possession of other deities.

„What can I do to help?“

"I've already done almost everything. Silvia, a young girl from Portogruaro, who is important for the rescue of the sacred wood, wanted to become an exchange student in Germany ever since she learned German in middle school. So I rigged the selections and made her come here to Wilhelmshaven to stay in my daughter's family. It's absolutely necessary that Duff and Silvia work together. The only problem is that they will never get back on time! And I also have a feeling that they'll need to be protected. Can you do that, daddy?"

"Sure. I'll be waiting for them and I'll get them there on time and safely."

After this Zeus goes back to his office and awaits Silvia and Duff's arrival.

I have a good time in Wilhelmshaven and rapidly become close friends with Duff. We do lots of things together during those first few days and have lots of fun.

Then, one day, Duff's parents leave with Stella to go to the movies and leave me, Duff and Carl at home. We are playing Uno when suddenly, out of the blue, a huge gust of wind comes and blows all the cards away. Then there is a bright shine and standing in front of us is a woman dressed in Greek clothes. Duff recognizes that it is her mother, Aphrodite.

"Mom?"

"You three must help Ennea, a dryad from Silvia's home town in her quest to get back home. But to do this you must do two other things: You girls have to take Pan's flute which Audrey already has found and a pearl necklace and bring it to Portogruaro. Here is the necklace." She puts it in Duff's hand and gently places my hand over Duff's. "But don't let anyone see the necklace. That's very important! And don't take public transport. The matter is top secret. Nobody must keep track of you! If you need help, go to uncle Joop."

"Uncle Joop works in the financial office here in Wilhelmshaven", Duff explains to me. "I have known him for ages. He has always been like a grandfather to Stella, Carl and me. But, mom..."

"Yes, darling?", her mother says.

"You are a goddess - although I was very astonished to learn this. So, why aren't you doing these things yourself?"

"I can't, Audrey. It works only, when a descendant of Aphrodite - that's you - and of Artemis' family - that's Silvia - work together. And Silvia will be so kind to work together with you, won't she?"

She looks at me and I nod taken by surprise.

She beams at me. "You and Audrey will be a wonderful team. But there is another task for *you*, Carl, because you are the brain of the family. You inherited this from your father, I suppose. You have to go to Aurich and fetch the dryad and bring her to Portogruaro. But make sure you take another way than the girls. You musn't be seen together in this mission."

"Mom, what..." Carl starts.

"No time for long explanations. The dryad can't leave Aurich unless you have something that is connected with both her and Portogruaro. For this you must go where..." She casts a glance at a small piece of paper and reads: "*... the Truth has served where people lost their lives. The lie of the Truth is smaller than when the sea has carried her. The lie sails in the holy place, where Elisabeth meets Christ and is replaced by him.*"

"WHAT?!"

"Here, you can read the oracle yourself. I got the paper from uncle Joop." She gives the crumbled, weather beaten paper to him. "You must hurry because the dryad can leave the coat of arms only at new moon and she has only four hours to leave this region. Otherwise after four hours she will be trapped again. And remember the many times when uncle Joop and I read the fairy tale of the Frog Prince to Audrey and you!"

And then she blows kisses at Carl and Duff, smiles at me and vanishes into thin air.

Immediately Silvia turns to Duff and confronts her for not telling the truth. She tells Silvia that she is indeed Aphrodite's daughter and that she didn't tell her just to protect her. So Silvia also reveals her origins, she tells Duff she is a descendant of Artemis's and that her family has been in conflict with Aphrodite for many years. You could see it in her eyes that Silvia wants to leave but she can't because she has promised Aphrodite that she will help.

CHAPTER VI (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): THE FLUTE AND THE VISION

(Alessia – Mascha - Dominik)

After her father's death Silvia has become very isolated and Duff is the first friend she has found after a long time of loneliness. So the girls are reconciled very soon. They are sitting in the town park. Duff shows the pan flute to Silvia. She tries to play it, but she can't.

"This stupid flute, it doesn't work! What is this? I can't play a tune just a scale!" says Duff with an angry voice. Now Silvia wants to try it. Silvia takes the flute from Duff.

She tries to play something and it works.

She really can play a tune, not just a scale.

She plays a beautiful melody. Silvia says: "I don't know why I can play something like this.

I have never heard that kind of melody, but it's like I ever knows it."

In this moment she feels sick.

She remembers something that she has never seen. In this moment she notices, she has a vision.

Every time when Silvia notices that she will have a vision she gets very bad headache.

Silvia sees that an older man is talking to her.

She doesn't know this man.

Silvia feels like this man is a part of her family, when she sees him.

The man starts to speak: "My dear Silvia, I know that you can't explain yourself, what is going on here."

Now he tries to explain her all the things she doesn't know and understand. Why she knows the melody, why Silvia can play the flute, why it feels as if the man is in her family.

"Silvia, I'm Apollo, your grandfather. The reason why you can play the flute is because I'm the god of music. Now you can see me, after all this time. I played this melody when you were little, every time when you were sad. It's an ancient melody that I played for the secret wood too." And with this sentence the vision ends.

When Silvia sees the reality again, she sees how Duff looks at her.

"What has happened with you?" ask Duff.

"I had a vision of my grandfather Apollo. He explained to me why I can play the flute. It's because he's the god of music and I'm his relative. And just the relatives can play it."

“How does Apollo look like?”

But Silvia doesn't hear anymore because she has another vision.

Silvia sees how Poseidon destroys the forest. He burns it down. In this moment Silvia hears a voice, but not the person who is speaking. The voice says: “You have to bring the flute to Portogruaro to save the wood. If the flute doesn't come there, the forest and you will die. As you can see.” And so ends the second vision.

She understands that they absolutely have to come to the city. “Duff, your mother is right. We must go to Portogruaro. I don't care how, but we must.”

CHAPTER VII (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): THE POWER OF THE NECKLACE

(Alessio – Jana – Aurora – Gaia – Mrs Wischer)

The sign at the office door tells: "Mr H.Ades, life style manager and hotel director".

It's a big room with wooden furniture and harbour view. In front of the big windows there is a gaunt figure, looking onto the scenery outside.



Hotel Atlantic has a pier for people who prefer to come by boat. A ship has arrived some minutes ago, a big white motor yacht with a painted blue trident at the front. Employees of the hotel rush over to help, but are chased away by the crew of the

yacht, robust guys with enormous necks and muscles like body builders.

"Well", says hotel director H. Ades to himself, "let's see what my brother wants."

Some minutes later Poseidon is sitting next to him in one of the comfortable arm chairs.

"I want to destroy the sacred wood of Portogruaro for making my dream true".

"Aha, and what kind of dream?"

"I want to build a big ship yard on the place where the sacred wood is."

"Well, it is time to destroy that old wood because it is useless", says H.Ades. "Can you explain me more closely how you will do that?"

"I need to come into possession of my necklace again with your help. You know the one I got from Gaea many centuries ago."

"Ah, you need my help..."

"This necklace allows me to get the 12 titans from the exile. There are 12 pearls and a bigger pearl in the middle. Every day I will use the power of the necklace to call back two titans who are very strong giants with the shape of a human. They are also immortal, invulnerable and they can

resurrect. They will come from their exile. I will see that when one pearl on each side is activated... the titans will destroy the wood and Portogruaro for ever!"

"This is a very good plan, brother!" Hades' voice sounds a bit ironic.

"I know... We will meet later..." Poseidon gets up from the arm chair.

"Where are you going?"

"I want to pay our niece a surprise visit and then I'm going to test whether your noble hotel offers a suitable meal for a successful ships' constructor like me."

"You can spare yourself the trouble. Aphrodite isn't any longer in Wilhelmshaven. I don't know where she is. If you want to surprise a relative here in Wilhelmshaven, you have to visit our boring little brother Zeus behind his shabby desk at the tax office. But you can also stay in the hotel. I invite you to lunch. But call back your ship crew first. They are frightening my employees."

"Impressive guys, hm? They are Telchines."

"Oh", says Hades. "That's why I notice their fishy smell even here in the second floor."

CHAPTER VIII: THE METAMORPHOSIS OF ZEUS

(written by Jana, Mascha, Erica and Emely, class 8e)

"Please! We need your help!"

"You don't understand! I cannot!"

"You have to! Without your help we cannot be there in time!"

"I'm not as strong as my name promise; sorry. I'm not the guy who the world is talking about. That was my past, caught in books and legends."

"Maybe you can try it. I mean, what bad can happen?"

Zeus is looking at Duff and Silvia who have come to his office. He takes all his bravery and turns into a...

"Really, a chicken! In that way we will never come forward."

Next try. This time it has to work...

"Zeus, a kiwi cannot fly! Try harder!"

After this he turns into many other useless birds and Duff and Silvia laugh and despair at the same time. Penguin, hummingbird...They start to think that Zeus really isn't the one he used to be. Goose... All these shapes aren't helpful.

What nobody of them knows is that Hades observes the hopeless tries of his brother from outside office window. He is secretly connecting his mobile phone with Duff's and installs a tracking system on Duff's mobile phone.

"If I were you, little brother, I would give up my hope and would continue working as a boring worker in the tax office", Hades thinks amused.

At the same moment Silvia notices Hades at the window. "Hey guys! There is a strange older man peering through the window. I have noticed him before. He stalks us all the time."

"What? Where?" Duff asks. All of them turn around.

Hades tries to sneak away. When he tries to put the phone back into his pocket a little box falls out. It opens and a little yellow butterfly flies out.

"I'm a total loser. As my brothers always told me."



The little butterfly circles in front of the office window.

Duff has been in despair when she followed Zeus' desperate struggles and heard his sad voice. But suddenly hope comes back to her.

"Zeus, we know that you haven't done this for a long time. But you mustn't give up. Try as hard as you can. Because when you despair, there will be no more hope. Everything will be lost."

He hesitates for a few moments. He realizes that it is the only chance. He collects the rest of his power, the rest of his hope and in the next second... he transforms into a real eagle. A very big, a gigantic, a colossal eagle. Silvia and Duff notice that his left wing was crippled and that his beak was more the beak of a duck. And the tail...

Never mind. It must work.

Silvia and Duff climb onto the back of the eagle and Zeus flies away.

CHAPTER IX: THE TRUTH AND THE LIE

(written by Jana, Mascha, Erica and Emely, class 8e)

The Truth has served where people lost their lives.

The lie of the truth is smaller than when the sea has carried it.

The lie sails in the holy place,

where Elisabeth meets Christ

and is replaced by him.

Next afternoon, Carl is on his way to the confirmation lessons in the church St. Nicolai, when he gets a message from Duff.

"Carl, I need you help and your supermind! Solve the riddle!"

Carl's mind turns to the riddle again and again. During the lesson he is in his own world and thinks. After the lesson pastor Tagmann comes to him and asks: "What was going on with you? And where is Duff?"

"She is ill", he lies. "And I could need your help. I want to solve a riddle, but I can't." He shows the small piece of paper with the riddle to the pastor.

"My dear Carl, I'm very sorry, but I have a very important meeting. But remember: Everything what you do, do with God. Because then he will help you in the shape of Christ." After that he turns to smoke. But Carl doesn't notice it. He looks around in the church again and reads the riddle for the umpteenth time.

The Truth has served where people lost their lives.

The lie of the Truth is smaller than when the sea has carried her.

The lie sails in the holy place,

where Elisabeth meets Christ

and is replaced by him.

"I think the truth and the lie are synonyms for something. I have to find out for what to solve the riddle. And I know that Christ and the holy place mean a church. 'Where others lost their lives' probably hints to a tragedy - or a war."

When he leaves the church, deep in thoughts, he nearly crashes into his classmate Isabell, who is whispering to another girl, as always. Isabell is a real gossip monger. If you want that everyone knows your secrets, you just have to tell *her*. Carl doesn't like her very much. But to be polite he greets her and walks on. Isabell makes him think about truth and lies again.

"The riddle said that the lie is smaller than the truth", he thinks. "And if I interpret this correctly, the truth was carried over the sea. What would swim on the sea? Perhaps a ship. But a ship isn't very small."

In the night he lies in his bed and can't sleep, because he thinks about these words again and again: "Ship, church, lie and truth..."

His mobile phone rings. Duff has added a new message: "Just two days left until new moon."

Now he can't sleep even less.

He lies in the dark and repeats the riddle again. He nearly knows the lines by heart now. "The Truth serves where people... No, the Truth has served..." Suddenly he has an idea. The first lines are about the truth and they are written in the past! "That must mean that the truth was in the past, but now, in the present, it doesn't exist any more and the lie has replaced the truth. And now?"

In his head images swirl around. Churches and ships, true ships, false ships, a true church, a false one with blue wheels and a fork instead of a cross. He has fallen asleep and he is dreaming.

CHAPTER X (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): ON THE WAY TO ITALY

(Alessandro – Jana – Aurora – Gaia)

"I'm cold!"

"I'm tired!"

"Maybe we could stop to sleep because it's already night."

Zeus thinks that's a good idea, he is tired, too. He can't fly anymore. On the other hand he knows that they have to reach Portogruaro soon. But it is difficult to find the way. It's nearly new moon and the very small sickle of the moon which is their guiding light is mostly hidden behind thick clouds. But somehow Silvia always manages to detect it again.

"Yes, please, let's find a place to sleep", Duff insists. "We have been flying for 15 hours now and we are only in Austria."

"Sorry, I've a crippled wing."

"If you were the Zeus of ancient times, we would already have arrived. I'm sure!"

"Ok, let's call it a day!" So Zeus flies down to a valley and lands. The girls dismount and nearly twist their ankles.

"What a flight."

"I don't feel my legs anymore."

"Stop complaining, girls. Let's find a hotel."

Duff turns her mobile phone on and access at google maps. After a while they arrive at a small hotel, "Alpenglück".

"Time to sleep! Let's go in!"

"No, stop! Zeus, you have to retransform first!"

"Oh, thanks. I almost forgot."

Finally, they are in bed.

When Duff, Silvia and Zeus are sleeping, Poseidon arrives in the night because due to the installed tracking system Hades has told him where Duff, Silvia and Zeus, the eagle with the crippled wing, are now. Poseidon looks through the window into the rooms where the girls are sleeping. "I have just waited for the right moment for revenge!"

He turns into smoke so he can come in through the key hole. In the room of Duff, he turns back into Poseidon.

"This is the necklace! On Duff's neck!"

He makes the necklace float with the power of his trident and quickly grabs it. "You are mine! After all these years."

When he wants to leave the room, the door makes a noise.

"What was that?" Zeus whose room is next to Duff and Silvia's appears on the hotel corridor. He turns the light on and everybody sees Poseidon staying in the middle of the room with the necklace in his hand.

"What are you doing??? Give the necklace back to me!!!"

"Hahahah... bye bye!!!"

Zeus tries to grab Poseidon's arm but in that moment he has already disappeared.

CHAPTER XI: CARL SOLVES THE RIDDLE

(written by Jana, Mascha, Erica and Emely, class 8e)

New day, new ideas. After breakfast Carl starts another time. He works very concentrated. But whenever he can couple two keywords, he can't bring the other words to the story.

"Carl, hurry up!" Another message from Duff. "Things are getting really hard here!"

Carl sighs. What might a ship have to do with a church? Or with truth and lie?

And can a truth serve? Water, sea, ships, war. This sounds like a war, naval battle. But truth and lie?

And why had he to solve the riddle? It matters to Duff, not him. But what if this was no coincidence? What if the riddle was meant precisely for him to solve? No, this can't be true. Or can it? His thoughts tumble around.

Carl rises. He needs fresh air. He takes his bike. His way leads him back to the church. He sees a groups of tourists. The pastor shows them around and explains the history of the church. When Carl greets him, he smiles and answers with a short nod. Then he carries on with his explanations.

"The church was founded in 1869. When the church was founded, its patron saint was Saint Elisabeth. Only later, in 1959, the name was changed into Christus- und Garnisonkirche."

What?!? *The lie sails in the holy place where Elisabeth meets Christ and is replaced by him...* This matches exactly with the words of the riddle. Besides the part about the ship. Carl's eyes wander to the small group in front of the church. He has the feeling that the pastor is still smiling at him. But it must have been a mistake. Because the pastor is still speaking to his guest. "And now I recommend to go inside. In our church we have a small exhibition about the battle of Jutland 1916, a naval battle between England and Germany."

This can't be coincidence, can it? Carl is thunderstruck. Another part fits. But how can he connect this with truth and lie? Maybe a kind of fake is meant? Is it inside the church?

The tourists come out again. "Carl", the pastor called him. "Perhaps you should also have a look onto the exhibition."

Carl goes inside, like in trance. His eyes are directed to a small object. It seems to attract him.

It was a model ship. Made of wood.

CHAPTER XII (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): THE DESTRUCTION OF PORTOGRUARO

(Mascha – Dominik – Alessia - Gregory)

“Oh my god!”, Duff cries. “Look at those creatures!”

Duff and Silvia have arrived in Portogruaro. They try to act as normal as possible; therefore they have gone to Silvia’s school and introduced Duff as Silvia’s exchange sister. They are sitting together in the school yard now and enjoy a coffee from the automaton, together with Silvia’s classmates Gregory, Dominik and Alessia. “Wow, I also want such an automaton in my school”, Duff says. “I wish...”

And then the sky becomes dark. A big shadow covers everything. And it gets even worse. When they open the school’s entrance door and peer through it, they see many strange creatures: They’re bigger than the buildings. “The Titans”, Silvia murmurs. “Come, Duff, let’s try to get out of the school building. And you others, hide somewhere. Try not to be seen with us.” She looks extremely worried. “I didn’t know that they were already in Portogruaro. They are Poseidon’s creatures. They haven’t respect of anything, of people and gods.” In fact Duff can see that they are rude, ugly and - mighty. They look like the humans but much bigger and uglier. And it seems that they already have destroyed all what they have seen.

When the two girls arrive in the city most of the monuments are already destroyed. First of all the Titans destroyed at the same time the four entrances of the city that lead at the city centre.

After that they started to destroy everything that was in front of them, apart for the school because some teachers, who are magical creatures, like the history teacher, have managed to prevent the destruction and to save the students.

Now the Titans arrive in front of the Town hall. They smash it with an only punch. It breaks into thousand parts. A titan removes the inclined bell tower and he launches it faraway from the buildings.

“No reason to stay here”, Silvia whispers. “We are needed in the old factory. It seems that the battle has begun.”

CHAPTER XIII (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): CARL AND ENNÉA

(Niccolò – Emely – Elena – Elias)

Carl has finally figured out what the oracle of Dodona is about: the riddle is referring to an old ship the remains of which were used to build a model ship kept in Christus und Garrison Kirche, a church in the city center of Wilhelmshaven. But there is one problem: He can't steal the ship and take it to Aurich, because the pastor comes inside with the church choir. So Carl sits down and starts "praying". As soon as the choir leaves, he goes to talk to pastor Tagmann. The pastor greets him kindly and asks why he is still there. Carl asks for information about the material of the model ship and the pastor just says that it partly is built from the remains of an old ship found on the rocky coast 500 years ago. Carl examines it and finds that the church has only kept a couple original pieces and that the rest was modern material. So when the pastor isn't looking, he takes the old pieces and leaves.

He heads to Aurich by night bus to free Ennéa and gets there just in time. It's nearly in the middle of the night. There are many stars, but no moon. The only problem is that he can't find her and time's running out. Where can he find a coat of arms? Of course, at the town hall. He rushes forward. No one is on the streets at this time. Then he hears a noise, he turns around and sees a figure in the air who is getting "sucked" into a coat of arms. Carl reacts really quickly and gets the wood out, he goes close to the figure and the wood's magical power starts to pull her in. Then a flash of white light blinds him and when he is able to see again he's astonished. He has imagined a gorgeous woman dressed in Greek clothes, but he sees a monster, a harpy! Can this be Ennéa? What shall he do? Why hasn't his mother given him a counsel for this situation? She has only quoted this stupid riddle and, even more ridiculously, reminded him of a fairy tale of his childhood.

Stop! "The Frog Prince". This must have been the counsel.

"I'm sorry", he says to the harpy. "I have to kiss you." And he kisses her awkwardly. Another flash of white light and he sees a young woman in Greek clothes.

"You are Ennéa?" he asks.

"Yes", the young woman answers. "And this was your first kiss?"

He tells her the whole story, but has no idea how they can come to Portogruaro.

"We could buy plane tickets to Trieste. But we don't have enough money. And they wouldn't let us enter the plane anyway. You probably don't have a passport and I'm not eighteen yet. I would need my father's signature, but we have no time for this. So, what can we do?"

At this moment, a car with the number plate "WHV" stops at the other side of the street. They haven't heard it coming. The car window at the driver's seat opens.

"Carl! Ennéa!" A woman dressed in grey trouser suits calls them. "Get on! I have plane tickets to Trieste. But we must hurry. The plane is starting from Hanover. I'll drive you to the airport."

Carl and Ennéa don't ask why Charlotte von Lindberg knows their destination and why she has plane tickets for them. Neither why she has a written permission with the signature of Carl's father and even a passport of a young Italian woman who astonishingly looks like Ennéa. Charlotte is their only hope now.

They head to Hanover airport. Charlotte drives very fast, sometimes she seems to fly. One and a half hour later they are on board the aircraft. Carl has spent all his money on the bus to Aurich and some coke and pizza for Ennéa and him at the airport, so now they will have to make do without any money.

During the flight Ennéa sees that something is happening to Carl. She asks him.

"What's wrong?"

"I'm falling in love with Silvia."

"Oh, there is the problem. I remember your kiss..."

"And I don't know what I can say to her! I mean I know not much about her. And I think she doesn't love me. Maybe when I see her again in Portogruaro I could say something to her. She has such beautiful green eyes and her bronze hair is so bright."

"Why are you telling *me* this?"

"You are a woman, so I think you can help me. What would you like to hear from a man?"

"Tell her what you have told me now and then you will see what she says!"

"You mean I shall tell her that I love her and like all of her and all this kind of stuff?"

Ennéa smiles. "When you are in love, everything can happen. A long ago I fell in love to a strange man..." *And was turned into a harpy and remained in a coat of arms for centuries, until a boy and an omniscient woman in a car...*

"Now we have to get out of the plane and catch our train." Carl's voice interrupts her thoughts.

When they get to Trieste, after a long and turbulent flight, they hide in the bathroom of a train headed to Portogruaro. Halfway into the trip they hear the ticket controller trying to get into the bathroom, he says "Ticket please!" and so Carl and Ennéa get kicked off the train at San Stino. Ennéa is devastated because she knows that now her home will be destroyed. Carl, in the meantime, is looking for another way to get to Portogruaro for free. When they're walking they see a trucker at a gas station and ask him where he's going, "Towards Portogruaro". He looked a bit

drunk but it was their only hope. As soon as they get into the cabin they can smell the alcohol in his breath. During the whole trip Carl and Ennéa are tense, the driver can't go in a straight line for more than 10 seconds and they constantly have to keep waking him up. Then they can see the factory with its broken windows and crippled roof. But it can't have been this easy so, obviously, the truck crashes into a pole when the driver tries to avoid an obstacle: A big white dog slowly crosses the street. The engine is dead, the driver unconscious. So Carl and Ennéa run as fast as they can towards the factory. The white dog, a Shepherd, follows them.

CHAPTER XIV (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): THE BATTLE BEGINS

(Giorgia – Erica – Leonardo - Matteo)

Poseidon is really angry while they are marching towards the old factory. The Titans enter the building and march through the sacred wood. They find the clearing where Silvia and Duff are together with an army of nymphs, dryads and magic creatures, ready to fight. Silvia is fighting with a bow and commands the archers and Duff fights with a sword with an engraved dove on the grip and commands those who are fighting with different weapons. Among them you can see Pegasus,



the winged horse, and the winged lions which have come from Venice and all over the Veneto to join Artemis' forces. There are some centaurs, too, although most of them have joined Poseidon's army.

On the other side, Poseidon is fighting with his trident and directly at his side there is the *Drakòs*, a beast with the body of a crocodile, the three heads of an infernal dog and the wings and claws of a dragon. between a crocodile, a dragon and an infernal dog. It is one of the most frightening creatures you can imagine. The *Drakòs* can fly, spit fire and is incredibly strong. He is considered the faithful follower of Hades. He obeys at all orders of his masters. Even more frightening is the *Yanio* next to him, another kind of chimaera, with the body of a hyena, four wings of a bat, head and claws of a vulture. His special power are ultrasounds. He uses them for stunning his enemies. He can fly and has in incredible speed of movement. Centaurs and dragons follow, and of course, there are the guards of Poseidon, the Telchines. But the worst persons in Poseidon's army are Hades, gaunt, grim and determined, and the titans and of course Poseidon himself.

When the armies of Poseidon and of Silvia and Duff stand in front of each other, there is a strange silence. Nobody moves. Poseidon stares threateningly at Silvia, while Hades sends a small mocking smile at Duff.

The magic creatures of both armies start the fight. The dragons set fires to the wood and the trees begin to burn. The *Drakòs* and the *Yanio* attack the winged lions and harass them hard. The Telchines battle with the centaurs who have joined the army of Artemis.

Artemis herself is posted at the entrance of the old factory. She despairingly keeps an eye out for the missing dryad. Without her, the ninth of the chosen Twelve from Trojan seed, the battle will be lost very soon.

The other eleven dryads launch a battle with the twelve Titans. Other nymphs, dryads and hamadryads join them, but can't compensate for Ennéa.

Then two things happen at nearly the same time: Two figures come running from the station, directly through the ruins of "quarta porta", the town gate which the Titans have destroyed, and take a small path that leads to a side entrance of the old factory. Artemis' heart beats faster. Can it be...?

Artemis is right. One of the figures is Ennéa. She sends an uneasy smile to Artemis. Artemis nods back coldly. Ennéa's love to Leonard isn't forgiven yet. But there is no time for any personal quarrel now. Ennéa must join the line of her eleven companions as soon as possible.

The other figure is Carl. He feels very uneasy, when he follows Ennéa into the factory.

The other thing is that a car with a German number plate with the letters WHV comes down the Via F. Bonó very fast, turns into the roundabout and stops there. Two persons get out of the car, a tall bold man and a woman dressed in dark blue trouser suits like a business woman. The woman shows into Artemis' direction. Both get nearer. Artemis nods. "The secretary of Gaea is always welcome here", she says. "And so is the father of Audrey who is fighting on our side very bravely. But just her *father*."

CHAPTER XV (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): THE FINAL BATTLE

(Giorgia – Erica – Leonardo - Matteo)

Duff is so concentrated on her fight with a dragon that she doesn't see that Hades is behind her. In the same moment as Duff kills the dragon Hades wounds her with a dagger in her side.

When the dagger hits her, she feels weak and ill and sees her life in her eyes.

I think I have had a good life. Ok, the last weeks were horrible. But before that I felt save in my family. It's a pity that I won't see them again, mom, dad, Carl and Stella. My little sister is always so enthusiastic, always smiling and laughing. And when she laughs, you can see this little tooth gap. I remember how she lost her first tooth on her sixth birthday when she was eating her birthday cake. She was so excited, full of anticipation for the tooth fairy. And the tooth fairy came indeed. I was the tooth fairy and put a coin under her pillow. How proud she was when she showed it to me the next morning. And then to mom and dad. Dad embraced her. Could you imagine that he ever would have a swirling black head or awful star tattoos? He was just our dad. It's as if I could see him now. As if he is taking me into his arms. And the arms are as they always have been. No awful star tattoos any longer. And there is Carl, too...

When she is out of focus, she senses her father running to her and taking her in his arms.

After he has brought her into the wood, she says her last words "I love you, dad" and dies.

Her father slowly stands up and takes the sword of Duff and decides to revenge her.

He runs at Hades who is mockingly greeting him. He is able to hurt him, but the problem is that Hades is a god and can't die.

Duff's father cuts Hades many times, but at least Hades kills him.

After this fight Hades is so tired and wounded that he can't fight any more and goes to the underworld.

When Silvia sees that Duff and her dad are dead, she asks Artemis for help.

The goddess sends a bit of her power to her.

At the very moment when Silvia releases this power there is a big explosion and all evil people die.



Only Poseidon is still alive.

Until now Silvia's power wasn't as strong as Poseidon's.

But now he is alone and weak, he can't destroy Silvia's army, so he escapes from the battlefield.

He goes to the Olympus but there Zeus, Artemis and Apollo are already waiting for him.

When he arrives at Mount Olympus they catch him and send him into the Tartarus for 10 years.

After that Artemis and Apollo fly to the sacred wood. Silvia immediately recognizes the old man from her vision. She gives the Pan flute to Apollo.

The god of music plays a melancholic and quiet melody and the wood starts to sprout again.



Suddenly Duff comes out of the wood to Silvia.

Silvia is so happy that Duff is alive again that she nearly faints and thinks that this is a dream.

Carl has watched the battle from a place among the trees of the sacred wood. Suddenly he feels a sharp pain. His arm hurts like ten thousand steps with a knife. An arrow is fixed in his arm. He sees Silvia running to him.

“Carl!!! Does it hurt? Are you ok?”

“Yes, YES, everything is ok! I only have AN ARROW IN MY ARM! And, no, it doesn't hurt. It HURTS LIKE HELL!”

“Okaaay, I only wanted to ask. I didn't know that you would be sarcastic.”

“Silvia, listen to me. Don't try to help. I can care for myself. You are needed in the battle. So go into the battle again ... kill some monsters for me.”

He can see tears in her eyes when she answers: “Carl, you are an idiot! I will leave Jupy here with you.”

She gives him a mild kiss to his cheek and goes away.

After 15 minutes minutes the pain is more tolerable. Carl pulls the arrow out of his arm and tries to ignore the blood which runs down his arm. Jupy is next to him. What is Silvia doing now? Is she fighting with a chimaera? At this thought a shiver runs down his spin.

In the same moment, he sees his father running through the wood and carrying someone in his arms... DUFF. Carl is shocked. His twin sister, his other, definitely not better side, has died. He sinks down. But the next second he stands up again. Duff has offered her live to stop the fight and to defeat the evil. He can't stay here when Duff does something so He doesn't know how to picture it. He would like to take a weapon, but he wouldn't be able hold it longer than 2 seconds because his arm hurts too much. When he starts to think about other choices, he sees another person a few meters next to him. It is Silvia! She has also seen Duff, he can feel it. He looks at her. Something is different with her, 30 minutes ago she was full of feelings, but now there is only one feeling in her. ANGER!

A silver shine comes out of her and let her glow from the inside. What happens next is hard to describe. There is an explosion. But it isn't a normal explosion. When it is over, all villains are dead, but there isn't any fire or a track of a fight. Carl looks reverently at her. The shine is away, she sways. But she says: "Carl, I'm so happy that you are ok."



And then he hears the quiet and melancholic melody of a pan flute...

CHAPTER XVI (INTERNATIONAL TEAM): ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

(Giorgia – Erica)

After Silvia has composed herself again, Duff and she go to Mount Olympus to tell the good gods that there isn't a menace anymore.

They stop because of the breath-taking view. They have expected many clouds and an angel choir or something like that. But they see a mix of all the big cities in the world. They see Venice, Moscow, New York, Oldenburg, Paris and Rio de Janeiro. But there is a little difference, they recognize. It is much cleaner and quieter than in all the "real" cities.

Zeus is already awaiting them. He looks more impressive than in the financial office. He is dressed in white ancient clothes. Jupy is running to him. He is barking happily.

"Hello, old friend." Zeus is petting the dog. Jupy is over-excited.

"He seems to know you", states Silvia.

"Yes", Zeus is smiling. "Jupy is *my* dog. I left him with you when you were very little. He has always protected you."

"Now the menace is over. We have stopped Poseidon and the titans", says Silvia.

"Thank you for your help, I hate say it but we couldn't do it without you", expresses Zeus.

"Everything started with that damned necklace. When Clytus found it per chance and gave it to Ennéa, he didn't know about its power. It's very old magic, far older than the Olympian gods. Gaea and Ouranos rivalled for this power. Poseidon used their rivalry for his own purposes. When Ouranos sensed traces of this magic in your region, Duff, and influenced your father, Gaea sent her secretary in human shape to your father to counterbalance Ouranos' influence. But



Charlotte is on her way to Gaea with the necklace now and Gaea will destroy it. Now it's time to settle all fights and disputes." He is sending a strict gaze to Artemis and Aphrodite who, too, have come to Mount Olympus. "All disputes!" His daughters give him a sullen look but exchange a short reluctant handshake. Then Aphrodite embraces Duff. Her daughter returns the embrace. Then she turns to Zeus.

"Can you resuscitate my father?" exclaims Duff nervously.

“My dear Duff, I’m very sorry but we can’t because your father is human. Only people who are descendants from an immortal god can be saved, but just once.” Duff starts to cry and Silvia embraces her. The menace is gone away, but Duff’s father, too.

The world is safe only for the moment.

EPILOGUE

(ideas: Mascha, Jana, Emely and Erica; written down by: their Latin teacher)



Some months later. It's a warm day at the beginning of June. Two girls are sitting at a table in front of the "caffé Roma" at the "Piazza della Repubblica". The surrounding porticos are filled with people window shopping, drinking coffee and taking pictures.

One of the girls has green eyes and hair that shimmers like bronze in the afternoon sun. The other one has wavy blonde hair and ice blue eyes.

Their satchels are under the table. The girls are planning a trip to the beach of Caorle. No school tomorrow because of the "Festa della Repubblica"!

"But Carl must come with us, too", says Silvia.

Duff grins. "I'm sure he will be more than happy to go to the beach with you." She becomes earnest again. "Who would have thought that one day we would live in Portogruaro, Carl, Stella and me. I mean, mom could have returned to Wilhelmshaven with us."

"You know that gods and goddesses can't stay with their children like human parents. And I'm so happy that you are here."

A group of teachers from the nearby "Liceo XXV Aprile" pass by. They, too, seem happy about the holiday. The girls are waving to two men. One is their history teacher who is married to a woman from Germany and who likes to talk German with Duff. The other one is a quite corpulent elderly person with thick Harry-Potter-spectacles.

"I'll join you in a minute", he says to Duff and Silvia. "First I'm going to pick up Stella from the kindergarten. Come, Jupy, let's go and fetch our little girl!"

The white shepherd is rising from his place under the table and following him.

"He has observed the world affairs for many thousand years and reflected on the eternal battle between good and evil", says Silvia. "That really qualifies him for his work as our new philosophy teacher."

"And he is a good legal guardian as well", says Duff.

Silvia smiles. A boy is entering the café. He has the same wavy hair and blue eyes as his twin sister. Silvia's smile becomes even warmer. A wonderful day at the beach is waiting for them!

eTwinning project “New Tales of Ancient Gods and Heroes”

Teachers: Lucia Passador, “Liceo XXV Aprile”, Portogruaro
Anke Wischer, „Neues Gymnasium Wilhelmshaven“, Wilhelmshaven

Students: four students of Latin course, class 8, Wilhelmshaven
students of mythology studies, class 9, Portogruaro

Picture credits:

Pictures which are not mentioned in the following list are taken by students and teachers during the project work.

p.3 (former phosphate factory in Portogruaro): https://i.ytimg.com/vi/cS5RWs9_X5s/hqdefault.jpg

p.6 (the bell tower of Portogruaro): <http://www.diarioinviaggio.it/2014/02/17/5-monumenti-da-vedere-portogruaro/>

p.7/p.54 (piazza della repubblica in Portogruaro): <http://www.allabotte.it/en/portogruaro-3/>

p.7/p.18 (the oak tree): https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Acorns_in_Scotland.jpg (author: user Phyllisgautier)

p.10 (Pan): https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Pan_Meyers.png

p.11 (the Cheshire cat): https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tennel_Cheshire_proof.png

p.13 (the dyad): Artemis Kolakis, “Dryad”, in: “Fantasy artist’s pocket reference: Phantastic Fairies”, 2008

p.16 (forrest): <http://www.guoguiyan.com/free-rainforest-wallpapers.html>

p.20/ 28 (coat of arms): https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DEU_Landkreis_Aurich_COA.svg

p.21 (Hanseatic vessel): https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Modell_der_Bremer_Kogge_von_1380.jpg (author: Hans Josef Lücking)

p.23 (sea monster): http://www.engramma.it/eOS/image/94/094_roberti_29_tempesta_dragon.jpg