



A Bridge of Stories: From Sicily to Poland

Di I.C. Pascoli - Crispi - 2F 3F



Manfredi and Agata are students in Messina, a beautiful city in Sicily. They go to the Pascoli-Crispi school. Today, their teacher has a big surprise for the class. "We have a special project with a school from Radom, Poland!" she says.

Manfredi and Agata are very happy. They want to make new friends from a different country.





The Sicilian students prepare for the visit. Manfredi holds a traditional wooden puppet called a 'Pupo Siciliano'. The puppet wears shiny silver armor and holds a small sword. "This is a Paladino," Manfredi says. Agata helps him. The 'Opera dei Pupi' is a UNESCO treasure. They want to show their history to the Polish students.





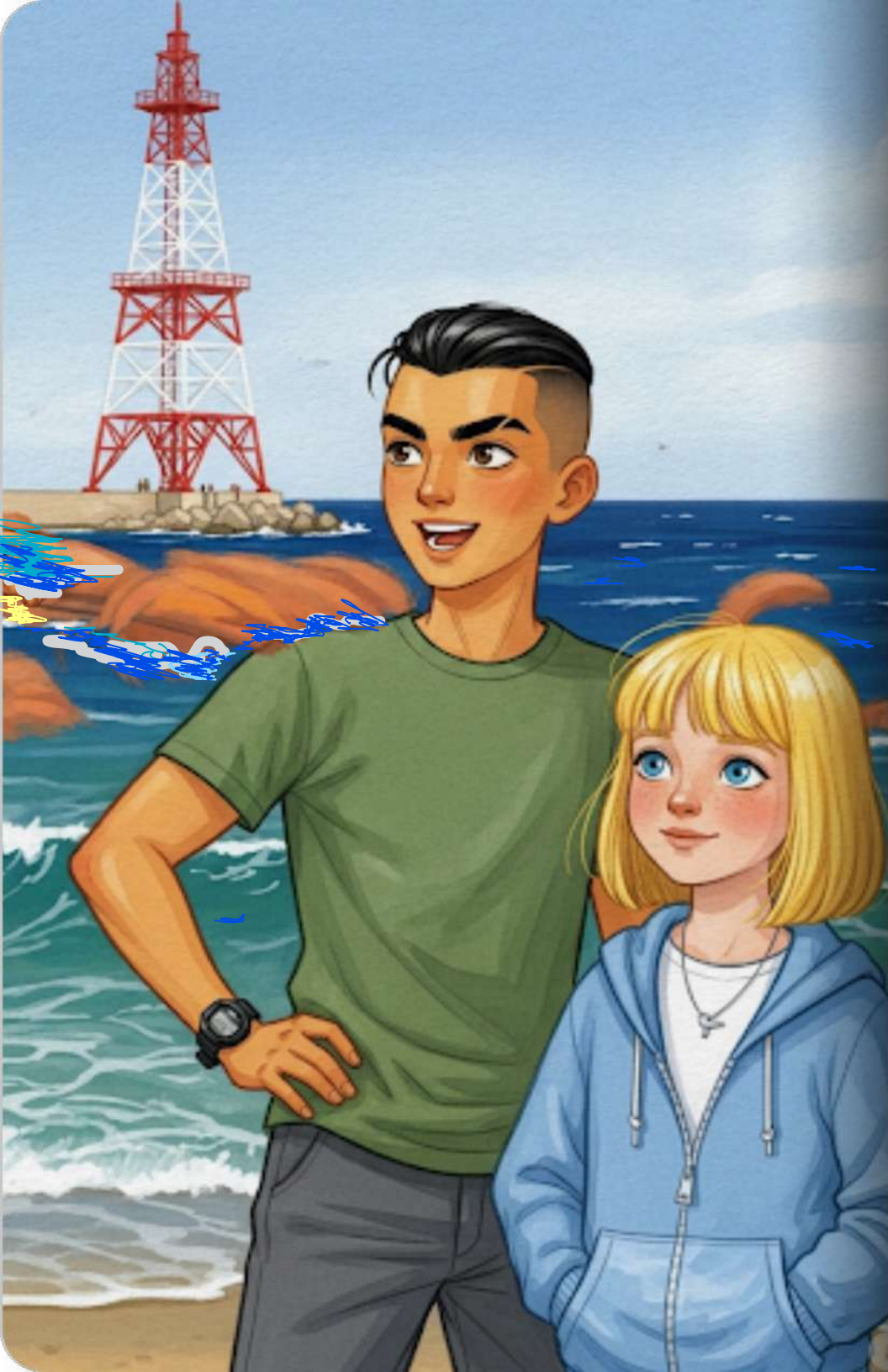
Finally, the guests arrive from Poland! A girl with a kind smile walks into the school. Her name is Kinga, and she is from the city of Radom. Agata runs to meet her. "Hello, Kinga! Welcome to Messina!" Agata says. Kinga waves her hand. She is very excited to see Sicily and learn about Italian culture.





At lunch, Manfredi and Kinga sit together at a big table. There is a plate of golden Arancini. These are fried rice balls with meat or cheese. "In Sicily, food is very important," Manfredi explains. Kinga tries one. "It is delicious!" she says. They talk about food. Kinga tells him about Pierogi, a famous dish from Poland.





Later, Manfredi takes Kinga to Torre Faro. They stand under the 'Pilone', a giant steel tower. They look at the blue sea of the Strait of Messina. The water moves fast between Sicily and the rest of Italy. "The sea connects everyone," Manfredi says. Kinga looks at the waves and feels that Poland and Italy are not so far away.





That afternoon, Kinga has a gift for Agata. She opens a bag and takes out bars of Polish chocolate. "This is chocolate from my country," Kinga says. She gives a piece to Agata. Agata eats the chocolate and smiles. "It is very sweet!" she says. The girls sit together and enjoy the treat from Radom.





In the music room, Kinga plays a song on her phone. It is a Mazurka by the famous Polish composer Frédéric Chopin. "This is a traditional Polish dance," Kinga explains. She shows Manfredi some dance steps. Manfredi tries to dance to the fast piano music. They laugh and move to the rhythm of Poland.





Agata and Kinga look at a tablet. Kinga shows photos of the historic center of Krakow and salt mines in Poland. "These are UNESCO World Heritage sites," Kinga says. Agata is surprised. "Our Puppet Theater and your old cities are all treasures for the world," Agata says. They are happy to share their heritage.





Now, Manfredi and Kinga use their computers to talk. They are on a video call between Messina and Radom. They are far away, but they are close friends. They learned that traditions and stories build a bridge across Europe. Their friendship is a story that will last for a long time.

