



lend

lingua e nuova didattica

GRUPPO DI REGGIO EMILIA

LANGUAGES FOR PEACE AND CITIZENSHIP

IN MEMORIA DI ALMA FANTUZZI

VENERDÌ 20 FEBBRAIO 2026

I.I.S. NOBILI VIA MAKALLE' 10, REGGIO EMILIA

14.30 - 15.00 ACCOGLIENZA

**15.00 -15.30 PAOLA NIZZOLI
WORDS OF PEACE IN VIRGINIA WOOLF**

**15.30 -16.15 SILVIA MINARDI
FROM PAGE TO PEACE: LITERATURE AS A
TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE**

16.15- 16.30 BREAK

**16.30 - 17.15 MANUELA KELLY CALZINI
STORY SHARING: LANGUAGE, CONNECTION
AND SHARED HUMANITY**

**17.15 -18.00 JAMES ROBINSON
APPRECIATION, LISTENING, MEMORY AND
ADVANCEMENT. 4 KEY ELEMENTS FOR
NURTURING OUR FUTURE CITIZENS**



iscrizioni



lendreggioe@gmail.com





PAOLA NIZZOLI: “WORDS OF PEACE IN VIRGINIA WOOLF”

Paola Nizzoli reads Woolf’s essay: “Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid”. Virginia Woolf wrote this essay in August 1940, “for an American symposium on current matters concerning women” as Leonard Woolf noted down in Collected Essays.

The tone of quiet meditation, courageous empathy and reconciliation which pervades the essay, written in the midst of the roaring horror of the Nazi bombs falling on Rodmell, Sussex, still resonates with us, in these dark times in which insane words of hysterical warmongering bombard our minds and hearts.

Alma, who took part in several marches for peace between Perugia and Assisi, would certainly appreciate the spirit of the essay.

Paola Nizzoli, in loving memory of Alma Fantuzzi.

SILVIA MINARDI: “FROM PAGE TO PEACE: LITERATURE AS A TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE”

This presentation explores how contemporary literary texts can serve as powerful pedagogical tools for fostering empathy, cross-cultural understanding, and peace education in the language classroom. Through close examination of selected narratives that address themes of conflict, migration, identity, and reconciliation, we will consider practical approaches for engaging learners in meaningful dialogue about the role of language in building bridges across divides. Drawing on the belief that literature opens windows into lived experiences beyond our own, this session offers language teachers concrete strategies for integrating peace-building values into their curriculum.

Silvia Minardi in memory of Alma Fantuzzi whose commitment to education continues to inspire.





MANUELA KELLY CALZINI: “STORY SHARING: LANGUAGE, CONNECTION AND SHARED HUMANITY”

Humans are natural storytellers. Through stories, we make sense of the world, shape our identities, and build connections with others. In language education, storytelling creates spaces for listening, dialogue, and belonging.

This session explores storytelling as an educational practice that supports peace, friendship, and integration. Drawing on stories from different cultures, it highlights how narrative can engage both heart and mind, nurture empathy, and strengthen community in the language classroom.

Dedicated to the memory of Alma Fantuzzi, in gratitude for her enduring commitment to education.

JAMES ROBINSON: “APPRECIATION, LISTENING, MEMORY AND ADVANCEMENT. 4 KEY ELEMENTS FOR NURTURING OUR FUTURE CITIZENS”

This session takes these four key elements in turn and addresses their importance in the educational process in developing empathetic, sensitive and well informed citizens of tomorrow.

1. The ability and importance of expressing gratitude in helping us acknowledge others and generate an enhanced sense of well-being.
2. How listening is key not only in how we communicate and what we learn but also in who we are.
3. What lessons can we learn from a connection with the past in order to nurture our students towards a better future.
4. How we can look to embrace the ever changing world and technological advancements in order to improve the learning (and teaching) process.

Dedicated to the memory of Alma Fantuzzi.

