

Alev School, Istanbul  
IOSFS English

## **Pinocchio**

The Orff musical at the Alev School is an interdisciplinary project with the subjects: library, Turkish language, art, German Literature Workshop and music in the fourth grade (9-10 year olds).

This year the project took place in 6 parallel classes with about 120 children in all.

- The basic idea to introduce the new version of Pinocchio from the book by Gianni Rodari "Fairy Tales in Fairy Tales" (sly Pinocchio) in Turkish, was to read a story without illustrations to stimulate the imagination of the children. This took place in the library.
- Following that, the children in Turkish language groups wrote a continuing story. The children then had to agree on one of these stories per class. In this way 6 new endings for the story were made in the 6 parallel classes.
- In the art lessons, scenes from these new stories were illustrated.
- In the German literature workshop, the children were first introduced to the themes of "Theatre" and "Musicals" in general. What is theatre? What is a musical? Games for preparation like picking a card and acting out feelings, a place, people...
- Afterwards, the translation and self-written stories were worked on.

What are the key words?

Which persons play in the story?

Are these people good or bad or both?

Why do the people act like they do?

How do the people feel?

Where and when did the story take place?

What can this story teach us?

- Then the children drew cartoons and used as much direct speaking that could be used later in the song texts. The pictures and comic strips were posted on a wall in the corridor so that all the children could see and have an understanding for all of the stories.
- Finally, the children decided whether they would rather use their own continuation of the story or the classical story for the stage presentation. It happened that 3 classes presented the classical story and 3 classes presented their own stories in a musical form.

- In the music lessons, the preparatory exercises for the music and rhythmical pieces took place. In small groups, texts for the given music combined with the story were written, dance movements were looked for to go with the music or short melodies were designed for the self-made texts. They decided themselves which instruments were best suited for which movements – their own ostinati or song accompaniment - again in small groups. Each class was responsible for one scene in which there was one song with text and instrumental accompaniment, a self-created dance and a choir speaking in canon.
- After the rhythms were certain and the Turkish texts had been written, the children wrote their own German texts during group work in the literature workshop. They had to pay attention that the texts were not translations of the Turkish texts, but a creative extension of the songs and speaking texts.
- Finally, the music and German teachers rehearsed together. Of course it is difficult to sing a foreign language text in canon or when making music.