



ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO STATALE “GIUSEPPE MOSCATO”

SCUOLA DELL’INFANZIA - PRIMARIA- SECONDARIA DI I GRADO

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NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING LOCAL HISTORY

(ΤΟΠΙΚΗ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ, ΤΟ ΠΡΩΤΟ ΒΗΜΑ ΠΡΟΣ ΜΙΑ ΔΙΑΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΙΚΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ)

FOURTH ACTIVITY
REGGIO CALABRIA



Partner

1. GREECE

1st Primary School of
Archangelos

2. ITALY

Istituto Comprensivo Statale «G.
Moscati» di Reggio Calabria

3. POLAND

Szkoła Podstawowa im. Marii
Konopnickiej w Iskrzynie

4. SPAIN

CEIP EL TABLERO



ORESTES AND THE LEGEND OF THE SACRED RIVER

Characters

ORESTES, son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, brother of Electra, murderer of his mother.

ELECTRA, daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, sister of Orestes.

AGAMEMNON, King of Mycenae or Argos, leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War, husband of Clytemnestra and father of Orestes.

THE ERINYES, the goddesses of vengeance.

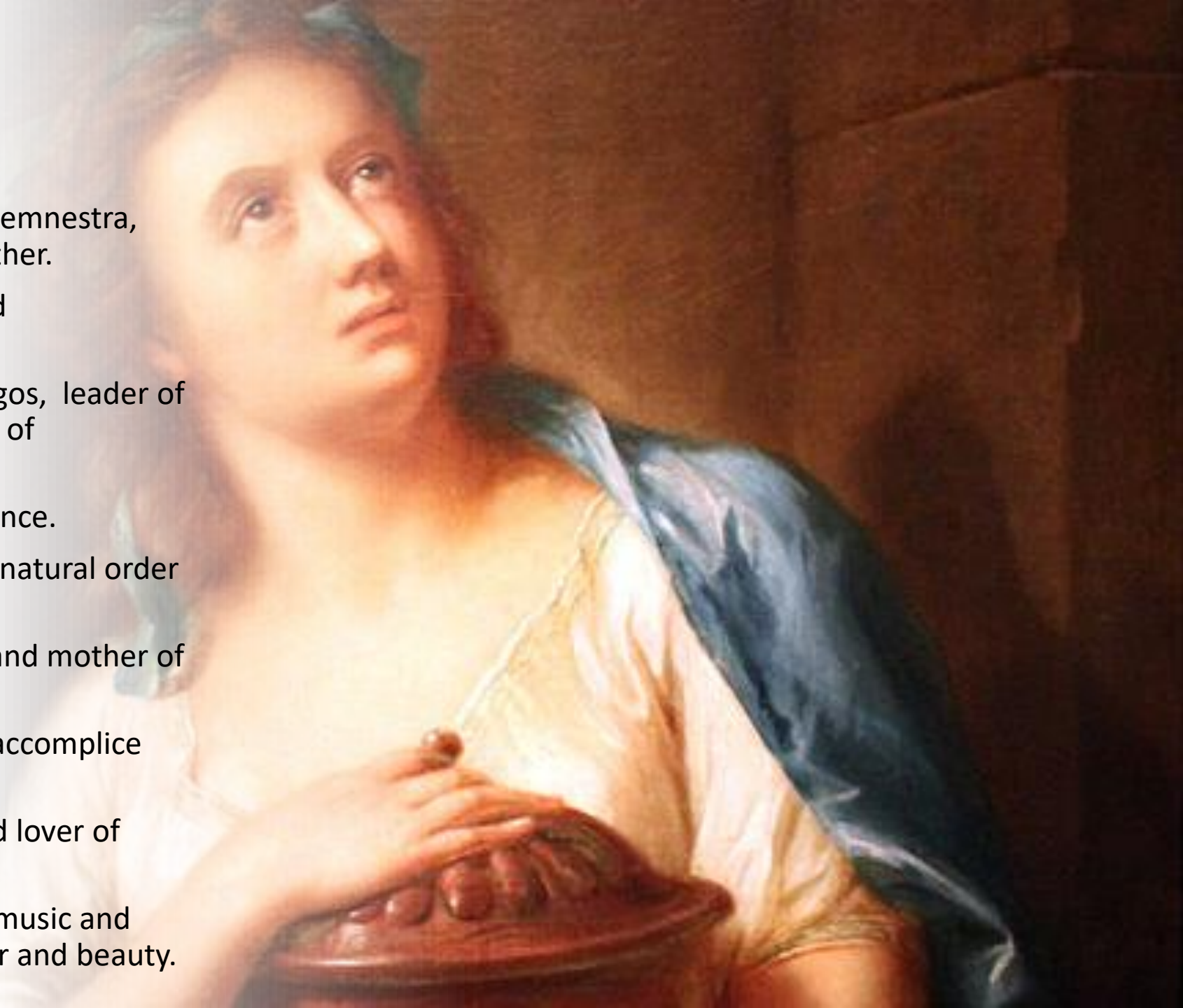
THE EUMENIDES, the guardians of the natural order of things.

CLYTEMNESTRA, wife of Agamemnon and mother of Orestes.

PYLADES, Orestes' best friend and his accomplice in the murder of Clytemnestra.

AEGISTHUS, cousin of Agamemnon and lover of Clytemnestra.

APOLLO, the god of the Sun and light, music and poetry, prophecy and knowledge, order and beauty.



ACT I - Prologue



CHORUS:

After the Trojan War, Agamemnon, Orestes' father, returned to Mycenae (or Argos), along with his prize, the Trojan princess Cassandra.

Cassandra had the gift of foretelling the future, but she was also cursed not to be believed by anyone.

Despite Cassandra's warnings regarding what was about to happen, Agamemnon entered his palace, only to be murdered by his wife Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus, who was his cousin too.

Orestes, a young boy at the time, had to run away with his sister Electra and found refuge at the court of Athens.



ACT I – Scene I

Clytemnestra and Aegisthus are sitting in the Royal Palace.

Agamemnon enters the room, greeting Clytemnestra.

Clytemnestra: Agamemnon, it's really you?! Are you alive?

Agamemnon: My dear, it's really me! I'm back to reclaim what is mine.

Agamemnon gets close to Clytemnestra and hugs her, while Aegisthus stabs him in the back.

Agamemnon falls dead on the ground.

Clytemnestra: Die, Agamemnon!
Finally our daughter Iphigenia has been avenged.



The little boy Orestes is playing in his room, when his sister Electra runs in and shouts:

Electra: Let's run away quickly, Orestes! Here our lives are in danger.

ACT I – Scene II



ACT II

CHORUS:

When Orestes became an adult, he was urged by his sister and the god Apollo to avenge his father's death.

He returned to Argos and murdered his mother and her lover with the help of his trusted friend Pylades.

However, committing matricide was a horrible act that brought the fury of the Erinyes upon Orestes. He was driven mad and was pursued by them.



ACT II – Scene I



Orestes is urged to avenge Agamemnon's death by his sister and the god Apollo.

Apollo: Orestes, it's time to avenge your father's murder.

Go back to Argos and kill the impious murders.

Electra: Brother, you can't wait any longer. Your trusted friend Pylades will help you in this feat.

Orestes: I'm ready to face my fate. Let's go, my dear friend!

Orestes and Pylades go out.





ACT II – Scene II



Clytemnestra and Aegisthus are talking when Orestes and Pylades enter the room.

***Clytemnestra:** Orestes, my son, is it really you?*

***Orestes:** Mother, I'm back to avenge my father's death.*

Orestes kills Clytemnestra and Pylades kills Aegisthus.

Clytemnestra and Aegisthus fall dead on the ground and immediately the Erinyes, the goddess of vengeance, enter the room screaming.

Orestes and Pylades drop the swords on the ground and run away.

ACT II – Scene III



The Erinyes are tormenting Orestes. Their deafening screams are driving him mad.

Erinyes: Be cursed for eternity! Be cursed for eternity! Be cursed for eternity!

Orestes: Stop it, stop it! I beg you, leave me alone!.

Orestes runs away and goes to the temple of Apollo in Delphi.

ACT III

CHORUS:

Desperate, Orestes turned to the **Oracle of Delphi**, who told him that his liberation from torment could only take place by purifying himself in the sacred river into which seven tributaries met.

This river was the **Metauros**, today called the **Petrace**, in the plain of Gioia Tauro, near Reggio Calabria.

Soon after Orestes' purification the Erinyes transformed into the Eumenides, the guardians of the natural order of things.



ACT III – Scene I

Orestes enters the temple of Apollo and asks the Oracle of Delphi for help.

Orestes: Powerful Apollo, I beg you, set me free from the fury of the Erinyes.

Oracle: There is only one way to stop this torment: you shall purify yourself in the waters of the sacred river with seven tributaries. By so doing you will wash your fault away.



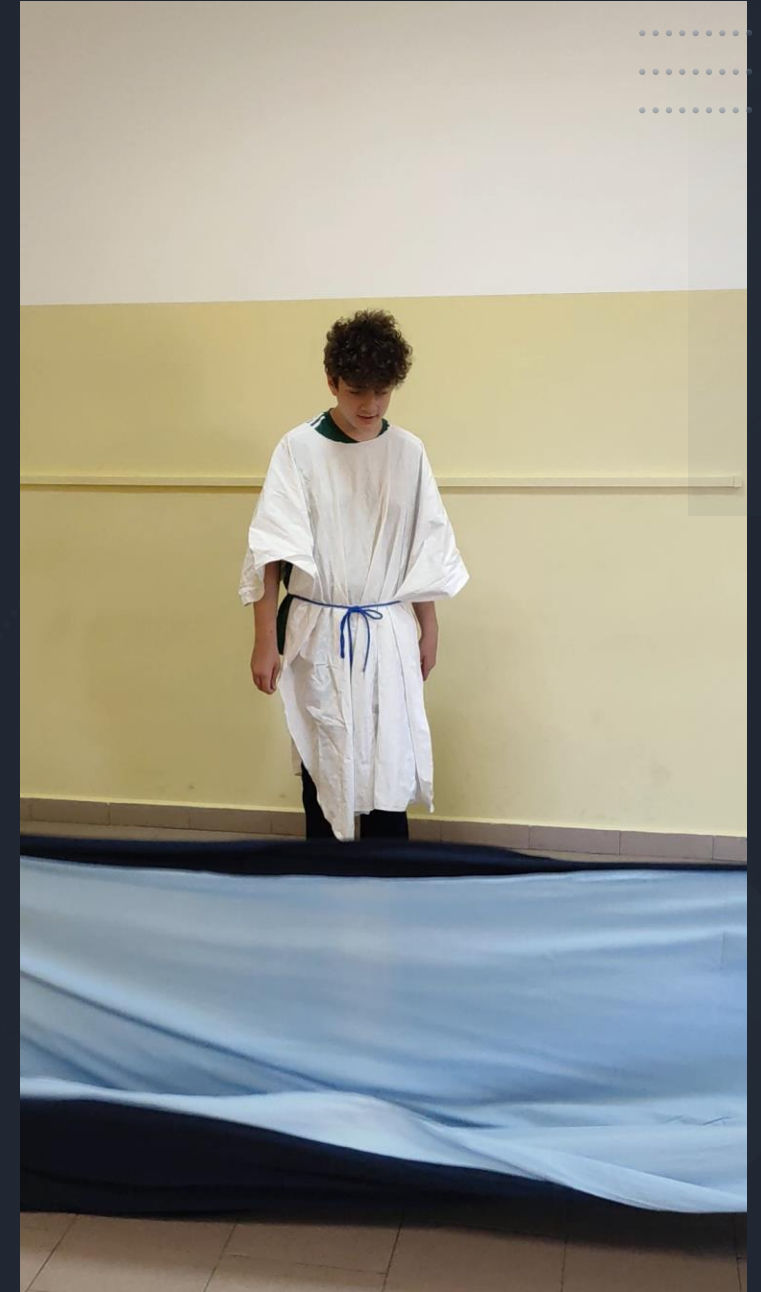
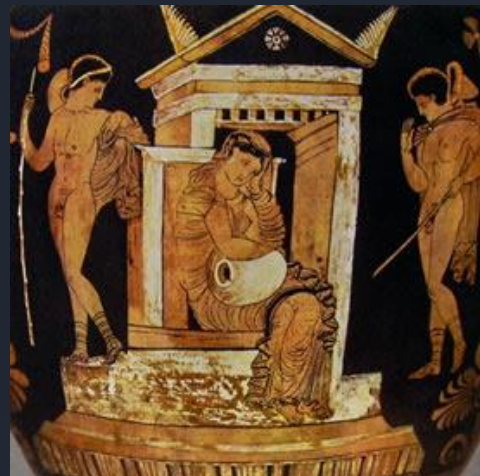
ACT III – Scene II

After travelling far and wide Orestes lands in Ausonia (Calabria) and in the area nearby the ancient Greek colony of Rhegion he finds the sacred river with its seven tributaries: the Metauros.

Orestes: Here is the sacred river which will free me from madness.

Orestes dives in the river seven times and immediately regains his reason. The Erinyes get into the Eumenides.

Eumenides: Orestes, now you are finally free. Return to Argos as a king and be an instrument of peace and prosperity.





Epilogue



CHORUS:

In the area where he purified himself, a legend tells that Orestes founded a city and a port. **Portus Orestis** is the legendary name of a city-port near **Palmi**, a town located at about 40 km from Reggio Calabria. Today **Porto Oreste** is considered “among the most suggestive places of the entire Italian Tyrrhenian coast”.



THE END