Italy Reads News—insert to March/July 2014

Italy Reads 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

Teachers: sign up to participate in today! Teacher Training Workshop, 12 September, 10am-4pm

JCU and AACUPI students: register to become an Italy Reads Volunteer today!

Write to: italyreads@johncabot.edu

Italy Reads 2013-2014 brought together hundreds of high school students of English, their teachers and John Cabot University students and faculty.

One novel, Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake*, inspired participants to share, in English, their own stories of cultural identity, family relationships and traumatic life experiences. Italy Reads activities represent the basis for lasting memories and new friendships.

True to the tradition of meeting with Italian and international high school students to discuss, in English, a work of American literature (...and more!), 35 JCU Italy Reads Volunteers participated in 47 visits to high schools during this past academic year.

This special insert is dedicated to a visit to one of over 50 Italy Reads participating high schools.

On 11 April, 2014, a group of JCU Italy Reads Volunteers were welcomed by an enthusiastic group students in l’Aquila (Abruzzo). Professor Annamaria Nanni and her students at the Istituto di Istruzione Secondaria ‘D. Cotugno’, l’Aquila (Abruzzo) opened their classroom to 8 JCU students from the USA and Italy.

After their in-class meeting, the high school students offered a special guided tour of their school and their town.

Unfortunately, l’Aquila was the epicenter of a dramatic earthquake on 6 April 2009. This experience marked the lives of its inhabitants and students generously shared some of their experiences with their guests from John Cabot.

In This Special Issue ...

Italy Reads Goes to L’Aquila

Last April, JCU Italy Reads Volunteers paid a special visit to Professor Annamaria Nanni’s high school class at Istituto di Istruzione Secondaria ‘D. Cotugno’, l’Aquila (Abruzzo).

This special insert is dedicated to a visit to one of over 50 Italy Reads participating high schools.

On 11 April, 2014, a group of JCU Italy Reads Volunteers were welcomed by an enthusiastic group of students in l’Aquila (Abruzzo). Professor Annamaria Nanni and her students at the Istituto di Istruzione Secondaria ‘D. Cotugno’, l’Aquila (Abruzzo) opened their classroom to 8 JCU students from the USA and Italy.

After their in-class meeting, the high school students offered a special guided tour of their school and their town.

Unfortunately, l’Aquila was the epicenter of a dramatic earthquake on 6 April 2009. This experience marked the lives of its inhabitants and students generously shared some of their experiences with their guests from John Cabot.

Thank you for sharing!
Students could see that, 5 years later, reconstruction efforts throughout the town are still underway.

Elizabeth, a Study Abroad student at JCU from Wisconsin writes “Thank you so much for such a wonderful day. I really enjoyed getting to know [the] students and [their] school. The tour of [l’Aquila] was very special, too. I am so thankful to your students for showing us around. They were great hosts!”

The scene of the train crash in The Namesake resonated with these students in particular as it recalled their own experience the night of the earthquake in 2009.

This visit highlighted the importance of learning languages, especially English. In an increasingly multicultural society, being able to express views in more than one language is an essential tool toward effecting change and improvement in one’s life, regardless of the native language.

Asia, a JCU degree-seeking student at JCU had this to say about her visit with students of Liceo “D. Cotugno”:

“I was glad I got to visit [l’Aquila] with your class. [The] explanations of the various structures present around the area were very interesting. I feel there is so much more to discover that people often ignore.

The class made us feel special and welcomed. They were shy at first, yet once the ice broke they were open to speaking with us. I look forward to meeting you and your class again next semester.”

We thank the over 130 teachers, their students and the 35 JCU Italy Reads Volunteers for contributing to a successful year. We look forward to welcoming you to Italy Reads 2014-2015 when we will be reading Ernest Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms. For more information write to italyreads@johncabot.edu.