

Impossible Conditional Clauses

AntoloGaia (2015)



AntoloGaia, Porpora Marcasciano's book talks about the sexual liberation movement of 1977 in Italy.

(pre-activity) Read the beginning of Porpora Marcasciano's book *AntoloGaia*.

Activity 1. Comprehension questions

1. Chi sono i protagonisti di questa storia, e dove si trovano?

2. Perché la scrittrice vuole raccontare la storia con la poesia?

3. Secondo te, qual è il tono di questa storia? Perché?

4. Di che cosa parla il libro?

Activity 2. In her text, Porpora uses words like vagabonds (“vagabondi”) and gypsies (“zingare”). While these words might be considered offensive, she chooses to “reappropriate” this language to turn the words into positive terms. Do you know any other words that have been *reappropriated*? Speak with a partner about the use of offensive words and the power of their reappropriation in your own cultural context. (If necessary, reflect first, write notes, and check a dictionary before beginning the conversation).

Activity 3. Reread the text and identify all verbs that use the subjunctive mood.

Activity 4. What type of subjunctives are they? Why are they used?

Activity 5. Porpora writes:

“Se mi fossi dovuto attenere alle regole dello scrivere... non avrei potuto riportare la testimonianza di un periodo molto importante della storia Lgbt.”

and

“Se avessi potuto lo avrei raccontato in versi”

What kind of statements are they? How are these sentences formed?

Activity 6. Write the correct form to create some sentences using the hypothetical period of possibility and impossibility. Don't forget the agreement when it is necessary!

1. Se gli/le attivisti/e/* non _____ (manifestare) durante quell'epoca, gli avanzamenti dei diritti della comunità LGBTQIA+ _____ (essere) molto più lenti.

2. Se uno _____ (leggere) il libro *Antologaia*, _____ (capire) di più l'argomento e la storia del movimento in Italia.

3. Se Porpora _____ (venire) negli Stati Uniti, (lei) _____ (potere) presentare il libro agli studenti.

4. Se tutti/e/* noi _____ (cercare) di capire gli/le/altri/e/*, (noi) _____ (conoscere) meglio le persone.

Activity 7. The conditional clause (impossibility): it is used to describe impossible, past events because other things happened and we cannot go back and change our pasts... however, we can always imagine what might have been.

Think of a moment in which you were involved in something important or something meaningful. Mimicking the tone and energy of the paragraph written by Porpora Marcasiano, describe what the event was like and how the outcome could have changed if things had been done differently or if you had done something differently.
