

OUR ADVENTURE ON THE BORDER OF TWO WORLDS

By Sara Milanese (3G)

We left on the morning of 18th September from Orio al Serio. The whole group - consisting of eleven students and two teachers, Mr. Alessandro Belotti, our official guide, and Mr. Lorenzo Aresi, the guardian of our souls - met at 7 am and went on a six-hour journey to Flensburg, Germany for the fourth meeting of our Comenius project *Bridges*. The flight lasted about two hours and it was pretty boring. Instead, the train journey, which lasted about four hours, was great fun and it was an opportunity to get to know each other better because we were members of different classes, so we didn't know each other very well. We immediately became a very cohesive and united group.



At Flensburg train station we were all picked up by our host families. Selina hosted me and she came to pick up me with her mother Anne. Selina was very agitated, so her mother spoke with me at the beginning. She spoke English very well. Anne drove to the village called Husby which was 10 minutes from Flensburg. While we were travelling I noticed the houses, very different from ours, and the landscape. There were a lot of green lawns and herds of cattle. The house where I lived was very large. There was a very big garden where there was a trampoline. The house had three floors. On the first floor there was a large wooden kitchen, a bright living room with a fireplace and a large TV set, a laundry room and another small room where their dog, Nero, lived. The second floor was dedicated to the children. There was a huge bathroom, Selina's room, Selina's sister's room and the room of Thore, Selina's uncle. He's only thirteen years old. Selina's uncle and sister have a total of six guinea pigs. Selina told me that I would sleep in her room alone for more privacy and she would sleep with her sister in the other room. The third floor was reserved for the parents. My room was very nice. There were many pictures of Selina and her friends and there was a piano. The bed was so big with the orange bedspread. Immediately the mother wanted to get to know me better. So we started talking about Italy, my home and my family. Then we went to the fair in Flensburg where I met Giorgia and Marcello. That evening I enjoyed myself a lot. When I came back, I met Selina's father, Niels. He was very friendly and sociable and spoke English very well. Every morning he prepared breakfast and sandwiches for the break. The whole family was very kind and helpful to me. I was very happy during my stay with them and I was very sorry to leave.

During the week we did lots of activities and we had a lot of fun. On Monday morning, after a warm welcome, the people from each country made a presentation of their work. In my opinion, the Italian group was the best. After the presentations, we visited the school. It was very large, with many labs and many classrooms. There was also a large garden where there was a lake. During the afternoon we visited Flensburg. We saw the center, the neighborhoods and the port. In the evening the German students and teachers organized a barbecue. We ate a lot and we also did some races. Marino and I participated in one of these races. We won! On Tuesday we visited a Viking village and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the afternoon we



practiced high rope. I was really scared, but I overcame my limits. There we met a man who could speak seven languages. We enjoyed it very much and we laughed a lot. I had dinner with some friends of Selina's. The next day we visited Lübeck, the home of marzipan. With a guide we visited the most significant places of this city. In the afternoon we went shopping. Another Italian girl and I cooked pasta for our families in the evening. They loved the pasta but the sauce was burned. That evening I enjoyed myself a lot. On Thursday we were divided into groups and we worked on an interview. I was in a group with an Italian girl, a Swedish girl, two Romanians and four Germans. In the afternoon we went to the centre of Flensburg and we went shopping. The last night was the best. We all went to have a pizza together. We took lots of photos, and we had a great time! On Friday we left. We took the train at 9 o'clock in the morning. We cried because we knew that we would miss that life and the people we had met. On the way back we played cards with the teachers. When we arrived in Lübeck we went to McDonald's and we stayed there for a while before taking another train to arrive at the airport. When we arrived at the airport, we waited for a few hours and then we got on the plane. We landed at Orio al Serio airport at 9 pm. Our great adventure was over and we were very sad.

I would like to conclude by saying that it was an amazing experience. I made new friends and formed closer relationships with my Italian school mates. I learned about a culture and a different life from mine, and I learned to adapt. I overcame my fears and I enjoyed it very much. I improved my English and I also learned a few words in German. I saw new places and met new people. I think I have learnt a lot from this adventurous experience abroad. But now it will remain only a memory.

