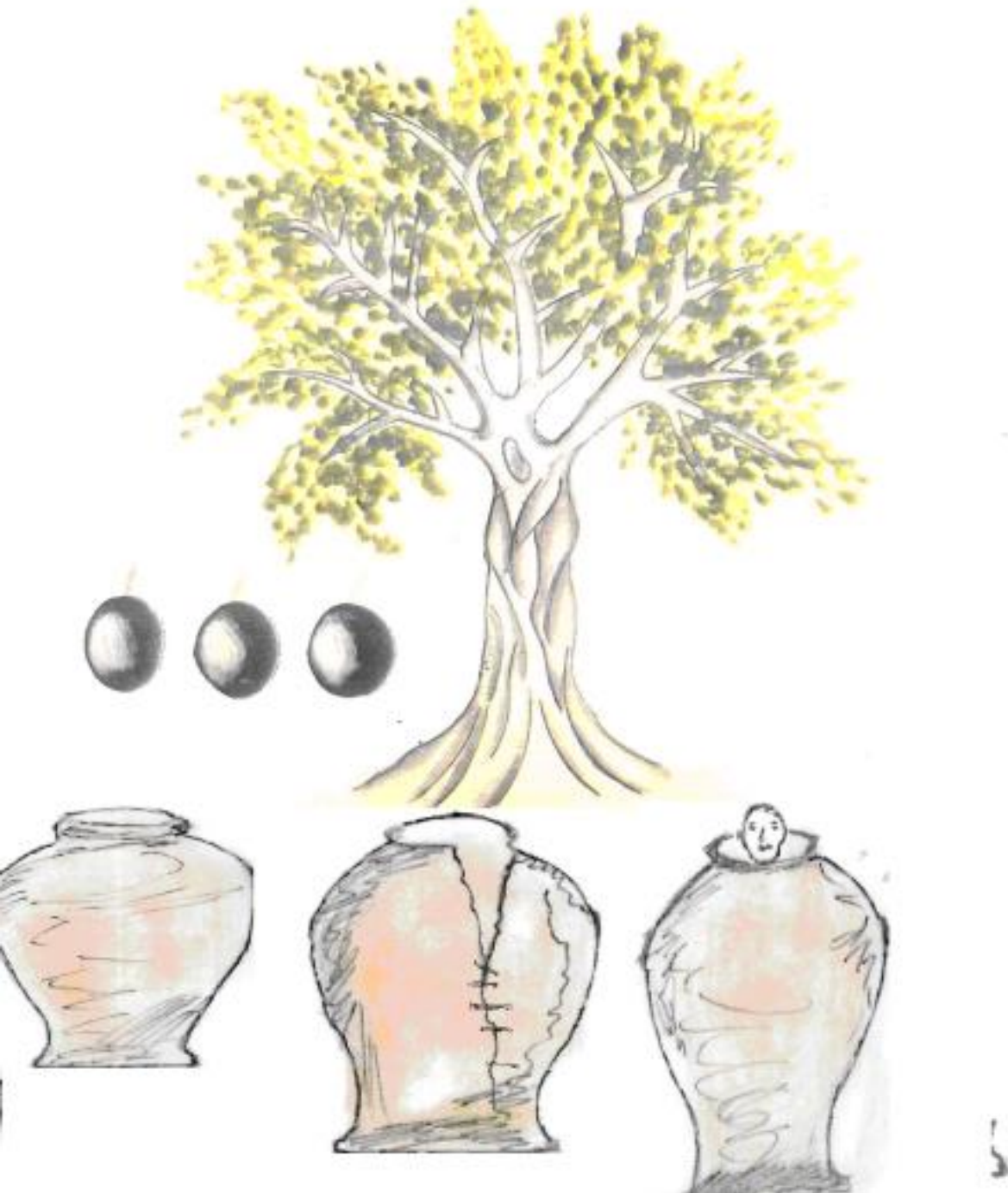


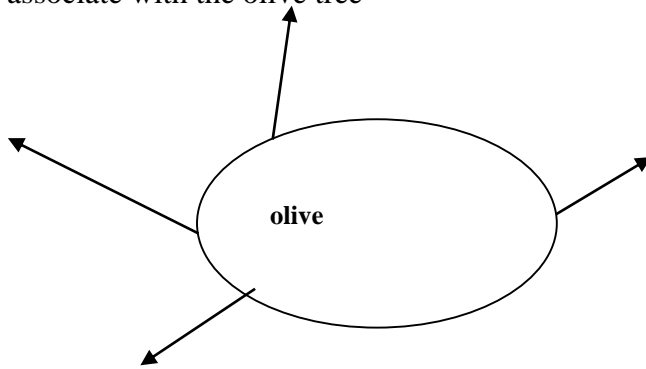
LA GIARA
Di: Luigi Pirandello



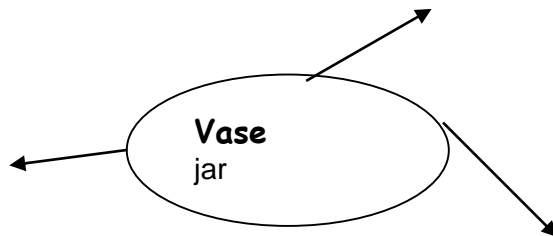
STEP 1 - MOTIVATION

- 1. PRE-READING ACTIVITIES WITH SUGGESTION/BRAINSTORMING CARDS**
Ed: the activity is scaffolded

Look at the drawing above : what do you see? Do you know what kind of tree it is? (olives – olive) Write all the words you associate with the olive tree



Now do the same thing with the second drawing. What you see is called jar (giara)



Are jars, olive trees and olive oil part of the culture of your country? (if yes, talk about it. If no, compare with different eating habits)

Ed :the activity takes place in a circle. If you want, you can use typical music

STEP 2: INPUT PRESENTATION

Olive tree



olives



giara/jar



Sicily/Italy



PART ONE : DON LOLLO'S GIARA NUOVA (new jar)

Level groups or Jigsaw - provide non-simplified text for pupils without special difficulties – keep division into sequences . Important reading aloud without the students having the text but only the images. Decide which text to read- if you choose the standard, make explanatory flashcards- Better simplified for problematic classes. The activities marked with + are higher level.

Even that year the olive trees were full of fruits despite the winter fog.

Lollò Zirafa, who had a lot of olive trees on his farm of Le Quote di Primosole*, predicted that the five old jars of earthenware he had in the cellar would not be enough to contain all the oil of the new harvest. So he had bought a sixth, bigger than the others, in Santo Stefano di Camastra*, where they were manufactured. It was tall to a man's chest, more beautiful than the other five.

Not to mention, Don Zirafa had also argued with the manufacturer about this jar. And who didn't he fight with, Don* Lollò Zirafa?

For every little thing he took his mule and went into town to see his lawyer. People said that his lawyer, tired of seeing him all the time, had given him a small civil code so that he could try to find the right law for his numerous disputes. That's why everyone he fought with told him -Consult the code!!!- And Don Lollò replied : - Sure! And you all go to hell, you sons of a bitch!

The new jar was put in the cellar. The olive harvest had begun two days before and Don Lollò ran here and there with a white hat, red on his face and sweaty, screaming at this or that worker. At the end of the third day of harvest, three farmers entered the cellar to put in some ladders and found the new jar perfectly split into two parts.

Oh my! And what will Don Lollò say now?-

- The new jar, too bad! -

- Don Lollò !!! Ah, Don Lollóo!-

When Don Lollò arrived, he seemed crazy. He grabbed one of the three and put his hands to his throat.

- You'll pay for it!- Then he continued against the other two and finally began to scream like a madman and to stamp his feet. He wanted to know who broke it. It couldn't have broken on its own.

*jar: bowl of earthenware used by farmers to hold olive oil

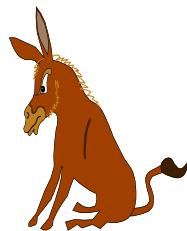
*Primosole:locality of Sicily, Italian region where the story takes place

*Don: courtesy title used in Sicily, meaning "sir" in the rest of Italy

ACTIVITY 1

Write the words in the box below the images.

Olive tree - jar- mule- olives -lawyer - civil code



ACTIVITY 2

Link the words to their meaning. (individual - all students) – under-exposed correction – (kinaesthetic :use post its and perform a run and paste activity)

a4	MANUFACTURER	5) four-legged donkey-like animal, used to carry people and things
	a) Land possession	6) book with all the laws of the State
	b) the Italian Civil Code.	1) person who works the land
	c) FARMER	2) person who builds objects
	d) Mule	3) person who knows the laws
	e) LAWYER	4) land that farmers cultivate

STEP 3 – FOCUS

ACTIVITY 3

Indicate whether the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

	V	F	Corrections
1) The story takes place in Tuscany		X	The story takes place in Sicily
2) Sicily is an Italian region			
3) Don Lollo' Zirafa is a manufacturer of jars			
4) Don Lollo' Zirafa is a very quiet man			
5) Don Lollo has a farm with many olive trees.			
6) The jar is used to put bread			
7) Don Lollò has 6 jars			
8) The new jar is very small			
9) Don Lollo often quarrels with other people			
10) The lawyer gives Don Lollo a new jar.			
11) When the jar breaks Don Lollo is happy			

+ TRUE/FALSE/NOT IN TEXT

STEP 4: PRACTICE

Activity 4

Underline the correct sentences:

- 1) Don Lollo' is a Sicilian farmer/Don Lollo' is a rich Sicilian farmer
- 2) Owns a farm with vines /owns a farm with many olive trees
- 3) Don Lollò decides to buy a new jar/ Don Lollo' decides to sell his jars
- 4) Harvest is good/ harvest is poor
- 5) The new jar is very small/the new jar is much larger than the others
- 6) Don Lollò puts the jar in the house / Don Lollò puts the jar in the cellar
- 7) Three peasants find the jar broken/ three peasants break the jar
- 8) Don Lollò is sorry but calm/ Don Lollò is very angry

ACTIVITY 5

Copy the sentences you chose in activity 4 . You will get a summary of the first part of the novel.

... Don Lollo' is a rich Sicilian farmer who owns.....

Don Lollò decides.....because the collection.....

.....
.....
.....

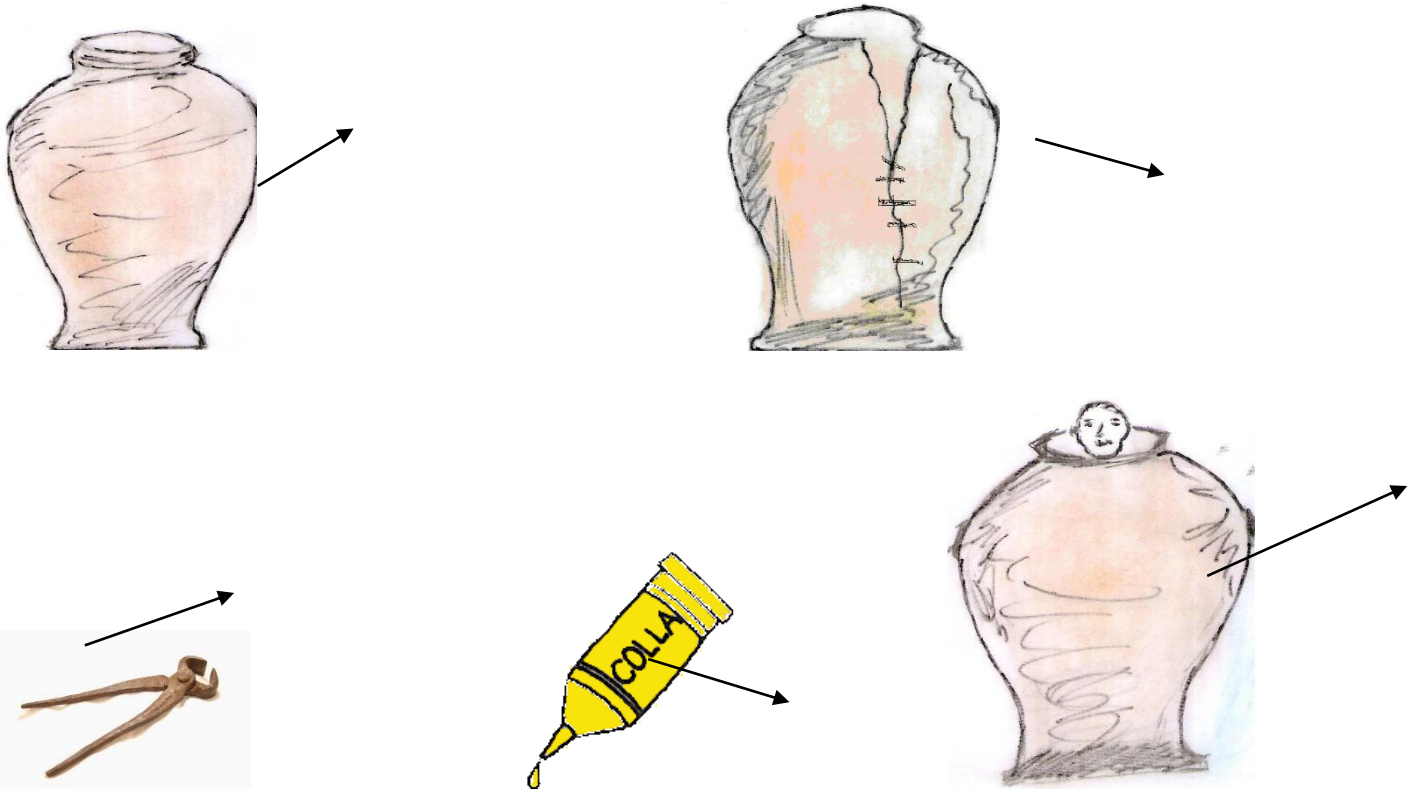
Analyze the character of Don Lollo'. +

Analyze the setting. +

PART TWO : ZI' DIMA LICASI (simplified text)

link the words to the corresponding picture

Jar ,Iron Wire stitches,glue, tongs, Zi' Dima imprisoned in the jar



The farmers told him to calm down. The jar could be easily adjusted. There was a certain Zi' Dima Licasi who had invented a special glue that would fix it perfectly. The next day, at dawn, Zi' Dima Licasi arrived in Primosole with his tool basket. He was a strange old man, very quiet. He seemed to be always sad, suspicious, like those who were afraid that others might discover his secrets.

That might be nice.- asked Don Lollò

That might be nice.

- I don't trust your glue. Put the stitches with the wire too.

- No way!"

- Donkey piece, I'm in charge here! In that jar I have to put my oil and I want glue and stitches!- Zi' Dima got to work full of anger . He made holes at equal distance in the two parts of the jar to insert the iron wire of the stitches . Then he spread the glue on the two sides of the split and slipped into the open belly of the jar so he could close the stitches with the tongs. A farmer helped him, from the outside It took an hour and a lot of work to make all the stitches pass and close but in the end the jar was perfect, as good as new!

"Now help me out," Zi' Dima said.

But, in his anger, Zi' Dima hadn't noticed that the opening of the jar was too narrow. He was trapped inside! Try and try again, he just couldn't get out. The farmer, instead of helping him, had laughed like crazy. There was no other solution: to get him out it was necessary to break the jar and this time forever.

Let me out. - He was screaming. - I want out! Help!

Don Lollò arrived and he could not believe what he saw.

"Come on, try: out with an arm...like this!" And the head...up...no, easy!...Cheh! Down...wait! Not like that! Down, down...But how did you do it? What about the jar now?- He touched the jar with his fingers. Just like new!

Let me out. Zi' Dima shouted again.

- Stop! You are breaking it! We need a lawyer here! Saddle my mule! I'm going back and forth. Be patient. In the meantime, to save my rights, I pay for your work, I pay for your day. That's five lire*, is that enough? -

- I don't want anything! Let me out-

- You'll get out, but I'll pay you. Here, five lire- he took them out of his pocket and threw them in the jar. He rode the mule and galloped through the city. When he told the lawyer the story, he kept laughing, but he assured him that he would make Zi' Dima pay the value of the jar as it was now.

* lira: Italian currency used before the euro. The lyre was also an ancient stringed musical instrument (see p...).

ACTIVITY 6

Link the words to their meaning.

a2	a) GLUE	1) iron thread seams
	b) stitches	2) substance used to hold objects together
	c) diffident	3) lay on top
	d) to spread	4) who doesn't trust
	e) tongs	5) to repair, to put in order
	f) fix	6) tool used to tighten or cut iron wire

ACTIVITY 7

Indicate whether the statements are true (V) or false (F). Fix the fake ones.

	V	F	Corrections
1. Zi' Dima Licasi fixes the jars with a special oil.		X	Zi' Dima fixes the jars with a special glue

2. Zi' Dima was a big talker.			
3. Zi' Dima was very cheerful and trusted everyone.			
4. Don Lollo wants Zi' Dima to fix the jar with glue and stitches of wire.			
5. Zi' Dima accepts but he is very angry.			
6. The jar returns perfect.			
7. Zi' Dima manages to get out of the jar.			
8. Don Lollò pays Zi' Dima with five lire.			
Zi' Dima doesn't want to get out of the jar.			

TRUE/FALSE/NOT IN TEXT – Individual Summary +

PART THREE : THE VICTORY OF ZI' DIMA LICASI (simplified text)

Don Lollò, satisfied, returned towards evening and found all the farmers celebrating around the inhabited jar. Zi' Dima, not only had he calmed down but he also laughed with the others about the funny adventure that had happened to him. Don Lollò pushed everyone away and began to look inside the jar.

- Oh, you okay with that?-

"Great. "In the cold, better than at my house," Zi' Dima replied.

Well! This jar cost me fourteen new ones. How much do you think it's worth now? - With me in it? Zi' Dima asked.

The peasants laughed.- Both of you, be quiet! Don Lollò shouted, "If your glue is any good, the fixed jar must have a value!" How much is it worth?-

Zi' Dima thought for a while and then said:

-If I had fixed it only with my glue the price would be almost as much as what you paid but so, with all these points that you wanted me to put, it is worth a third of what it was worth when it was new One-third an ounce and thirty-three?- said Don Lollò

-Less yes, more no.-

- Well, I'll take your word for it. Give me an ounce and thirty-three.-

'What?' Zi' Dima looked like he didn't understand.

- I break the jar to get you out, but you pay me an ounce and thirty-three, the price you think it's worth now.

- I pay? You've got to be kidding me. I make worms in here. He pulled an old pipe out of his pocket and began to smoke throwing the smoke out of the jar calmly. Don Lollò was very upset. Neither he nor the lawyer had foreseen that Zi' Dima would not want to get out of the jar. And how did it work out now?

-Really?- He said -You want to stay in my jar? Witnesses, everyone! He doesn't want to go out, even though I'm ready to break it, so he doesn't have to pay for it! Tomorrow I'm going to report you for abusive housing * and because you're stopping me from using my jar.-

Zi' Dima threw out another puff of smoke and replied calmly:

- I'm not stopping anything. I'm not here for pleasure. Let me out and I'll be happy to go. Pay...not even as a joke!-

Don Lollò was so angry that he was about to kick the jar but held back ; he hugged it all and pulled it hard.

- Did you see that glue?- Zi' Dima told him.

Who did it, you or me? And I have to pay for it? You're starving in there! We'll see who wins!- And he left not thinking about the five lire he had thrown into his jar in the morning. With those Zi' Dima thought of having a party with the farmers who had stayed there in spite of that miser* of Don Lollò. One went shopping in a nearby tavern. There was a moon that looked like daylight. At a certain hour Don Lollò, who had gone to sleep, was awakened by a sound of hell. He looked out onto the balcony and saw the drunken peasants on the courtyard holding hands and dancing around the jar . Zi' Dima, in there, was singing loudly. Don Lollò no longer saw from his anger*. He descended downstairs like an angry bull and, before he knew it, he kicked the jar that rolled down the descent. Rolling, rolling, it slammed into an olive tree and broke.

And Zi' Dima won it.

* ounce: Sicilian coin that is no longer used

* I make worms in here: I die in here

* abusive accommodation: living in other people's homes without their permission

*piece of jail: delinquent

* miser: a person very attached to money

* louder: very loudly

* no longer saw us from anger: he was very angry

A2	a) Stingy	1) I'm dying in here.
	b) Piece from jail	2) * miser: a person very attached to money
	c) Abduction	3) Thug
	d) I make worms in here.	4) Kidnapping someone for money in exchange for liberation
	e) Abusive accomodation	5) He was so angry.
	f) He sang like hell	6) Living in a house of others without their permission
	g) He didn't see us again in his anger	7) He sang very loudly

ACTIVITY 9

Copy the sentences in the box to the correct column. **Race with prizes**

Don Lollò Zirafa	Zi' Dima Licasi	The jar
	-	- She was tall to a man's chest.
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

<p>.it was always fighting with everyone - it was tall to a man's chest - he was very quiet -he was always running to the lawyer with a mule - he owned the farm of the shares in Primosole - he seemed to be always sad - he could not get out of the jar -it was put in the cellar -he kicked the jar - it hits an olive tree and breaks down - he celebrates with the peasants</p>		

ACTIVITY 10

Indicates whether the statements are true (V) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

	V	F	Corrections
1) The story takes place in Tuscany		X	The story takes place in Sicily
2) Don Lollò owns a farm with many olive trees.			
3) Don Lollò always quarrels with everyone and is very stingy.			
4) Don Lollò bought two new jars.			
5) The jar breaks.			
6) Zi' Dima fixes the jars with a special glue			
7) Zi' Dima is a cheerful person.			
8) Zi' Dima is inside the jar and can't get out.			
9) Don Lollò doesn't want to break the jar to get him out if he doesn't pay it first.			
10) In the end Don Lollò breaks the jar ,but only because of his bad temper.			
11) In the end Zi' Dima decides to pay to get out.			

STEP 5: LANGUAGE

Activity 11

Connect sentences using **THAT, WHO, AND, WHY, BUT** and copy them into spaces. **You can use a poster and stickers**

a) Zi' Dima Licasi is an old man...	1) Very silent.
b) Zi' Dima was sad, suspicious...	2) ...doesn't trust Zi' Dima's glue.
c) Don Lollo wants Zi Dima to use glue and stitch...	3) he is very angry.
d) Zi' Dima accepts...	4) ... he doesn't realize he's been locked inside the jar.
e) Zi' Dima is so angry...	5) ... who fixes the jars using a special glue.

1. Zi' Dima Licasi is an old man **who** fixes the jars using a special glue.....
2.
3.
4.
5.

Additional activity with different connectors +

Activity 12

Link the questions to the answers - You can use cued cards in this activity

a2	a) Who wrote the story?	1) The main characters are Don Lollo' and Zi'
	b) Where's the story set?	Dima
	c) Who are the main characters?	2) Luigi Pirandello
	d) What does Don Lollò buy?	3) The jar breaks.
	e) What happens to the new jar?	4) Zi' Dima.
	f) Who fixes the jar?	5) Don Lollò gets angry because Zi' Dima refuses to pay before breaking the jar.
	g) What happens to Zi' Dima?	6) Zi' Dima remains imprisoned inside the jar.
	h) What does Zi' Dima ask?	7) The story is set in Sicily.

i) Why is Don Lollò angry?	<p>8) Zi' Dima asks Don Lollò to break the jar.</p> <p>9) Don Lollò buys a new jar for his oil.</p>
----------------------------	---

ACTIVITY 13

Complete with the words in the box. You will get a summary:

The novel *La giara* was written by Luigi Pirandello and is set in **Sicily**.

The main characters are: Don Lollò e Zi'Dima. Don Lollò is a rich Sicilian farmer who has a large olive grove. He buys a new jar because his..... has many and so there will be a lot ofto put in the jars.

The new jar breaks and Don Lollò calls Zi' Dima to fix the jar with his Zi' Dima fixes the jar, but he remains imprisoned inside. Then Zi' Dima asks Don Lollò tothe jar. Don Lollò asks Zi 'Dima to the jar before breaking it. When Zi' Dima refuses to pay, Don Lollò breaks the jar again.

Cloze texts with choice between two given words or blank. The first has the least difficulty. The last the most +

Additional tips: show video sequences of the jar and ask what comes before/after- tell silent sequences...

Have the dialogues performed as Don Lollo' and Zi' Dima

STEP 6: FOLLOW UP

Comprehension of the text and in-depth analysis

Luigi Pirandello

Luigi Pirandello was born in Agrigento, Sicily in 1867. He studied in Palermo, Rome and then in Germany. His father was a rich sulfur trader. His life wasn't always easy. His father lost his wealth and his wife became seriously ill. He has written many works, both narrative-novels and short stories (nouvelle) and theatrical.

The story entitled "La giara" is part of the collection "Novelle per un anno" published in 1956. The novelle are short stories; the characters and situations are plausible, that is, they are invented, but they could be true. In 1934 he won the Nobel Prize for literature. He died in 1936.

In these shor stories, Pirandello talks about the clash between weak and powerful people and talks about loneliness, sadness, difficult lives. In the story, the weak person is Zi' Dima and the powerful person is Don Lollò, but for a strange case, Zi' Dima has the opportunity to become "powerful", that is, a man

who can command instead of obeying. For this reason, at the end of the story, Zi' Dima is happy to be imprisoned inside the jar and eats and drinks happily. Don Lollò is the greedy owner who, for once, cannot do as he pleases. The story is comical that is, it's funny, makes you laugh But it is also sad because life, after the breaking of the jar, will return the usual one for Zi' Dima and for all the farmers. And Don Lollò will always be their master.

ACTIVITY 14

Check if you understand the text: answer the questions.

- 1) Where was Luigi Pirandello born?
- 2) When Luigi Pirandello was born
- 3) What kind of stories did he write?
- 4) What is the story?
- 5) Why are the characters in the novella plausible?
- 6) What important award did you win in 1934?
- 7) Which collection is "La giara" part of?
- 8) Is the jar a sad or cheerful story? Why?
- 9) Search the text for words that mean:
 - a) Short story N _____ A
 - b) Which may be true V _____ E
- 10) Write the name to which the underlined words refer:
 - a) his
 - b) that
 - c) them.....

From "Il Viaggio"

For thirteen years Adriana Braggi had not left the ancient house, silent as an abbey, where a young girl had entered as a bride. She was no longer seen even behind the windows by the few passers-by who from time to time went up that steep, slippery and half-climbed street, so lonely that the grass grew there among the bushy pebbles. At

twenty-two years old, after four years of marriage, with the death of her husband she had almost died for the world. She now was thirty-five, and she was still wearing black, as on the first day of misfortune; a black handkerchief, of silk, hid her beautiful brown hair, no longer cared for, just worn in two bands and tied at the back of her neck. However, a sad and sweet serenity smiled at her pale and delicate face. From this cloister

no one was surprised in that high town of Sicily, where the rigid customs almost forced his wife to follow her husband in the tomb. The widows had to be closed so in perpetual mourning, until death. For the rest, the women of

the few noble families, as maidens and as married, almost never saw each other on the way: they only went out on Sundays, to go to Mass; a few times for the visits that from time to time they exchanged with each other. At that time, they wore very rich latest fashion dresses, made by the primary tailors of Palermo or Catania, and precious gems and gold; /.../ they were close to their husband or father or older brother. That show was almost obligatory; those visits or those two steps up to the church were for them real expeditions to be prepared from the day ahead. The decorum of the house could damage it; and the men were clumsy about it; on the contrary, the most punctual were them, because they wanted to demonstrate thus to know and be able to spend

for their women. Always submissive and obedient, these stood as they wanted, so as not to make them disfigure; after those short extras, they returned quietly to the home care; and, if they married, they waited to make children, all those whom God sent (this was their cross); if girls, they waited to be told one day by relatives: here you are, marry this; they married him; quiet and pay the men of that supine fidelity without love.

Taken from Luigi Pirandello "Il viaggio" in *Novelle for a year*,
Oscar narrativa Mondadori 1986

Mixed group - jigsaw

ACTIVITY 15

Read the text: choose the correct and complete answer.

1) What do you think is the best title for this story:
a) Adriana Braggi b) The woman in Italy c) Portrait of a Tuscan woman at the beginning of the twentieth century

2) The expression "silent as a bay" means :

- a. Quiet as a castle.
- b. Quiet as a church.
- c. Quiet as a graveyard.

3) The expression "erta via a sdrucchiolo mezzanine" means:

- a. tarmac road uphill.
- b. Road full of pebble.
- c. Very steep road, uphill and ruined.

4) The term "perpetual mourning " means:

- a. Pain for the death of a family member that lasts forever.
- b. Death of a family member.
- c. Country cemetery

5) Choose the correct alternative to complete Adriana Braggi's description :

Adriana Braggi was **22/35** years old. She was married very young. **Her husband was dead/ her brother died** when she was 22. She had lived in a large old house, as quiet as a church, for **35/13** years. She always wore **colorful/black** clothes and wore her hair gathered in a simple way. She had a sad, pale, delicate face. **She never left the house/ left the house only with her brother.**

6) Choose the correct alternative to complete the description of the life of Sicilian women rich at the beginning of the twentieth century

Women from wealthy families **often/almost never went out**. The few times they went out they went **to church/to the cinema** or to visit some friend. They went **alone with their father or brother or husband**. During these outings **they wore black/very elegant clothes and jewelry**. Their way of dressing and their jewellery served to make the wealth of the family understood. Married women **worked/ stayed at home and had children**. If the husband died, **they would remarry/ lived locked in the house**.

7) Complete the sentences

- a. Adriana Braggi is.....
- b. She lives indoors because.....
- c. Luigi Pirandello writes the story of Adriana Braggi also to describe

STEP 7 TESTS/ASSESSMENT

Oral test

As an alternative to the individual work of preparation for the question provided below you can create suggestion cards with questions – answers to be given to pairs and research work to be done in groups

1. READ THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, READ THE TEXT AGAIN AND ANSWER

1. Where is the story set?
2. Who are the main characters?
3. What are jars for?
4. How many jars does Don Lollò own?
5. Why does Don Lollò always take the mule?
6. What do farmers do when they see that the new jar has broken?
7. What does Don Lollò do when they call him?
8. What does Zi' Dima use to fix the jars?
9. What does Don Lollò ask him?
10. What happens to Zi' Dima?
11. Why doesn't Don Lollò want to break the jar?
12. What does the lawyer tell him?
13. Zi' Dima wants to pay Don Lollò for the jar?
14. How does the story end?

Research work (group 1)

2. From TEXT TO AUTHOR (plain text)

READ THIS INFORMATION ABOUT LUIGI PIRANDELLO, THE AUTHOR OF "LA GIARA" AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Luigi Pirandello was born in Agrigento, Sicily in 1867. He studied in Palermo, Rome and then in Germany. His father was a rich sulfur trader. His life wasn't always easy. His father lost his wealth and his wife became seriously ill. He has written many works, both narrative-novels and short stories (novelle) and theatrical. The story you read, "La giara", is part of the collection "Novelle per un anno" published all together in 1956. In 1934 he won the Nobel Prize for literature. He died in 1936.

In these novels, Pirandello talks about the clash between the weak and the powerful and about loneliness, sadness, hard and difficult lives. In the story you have read the weak is Zi' Dima and the powerful is Don Lollò but, for a strange case, Zi' Dima has the chance to become "powerful". That's why Zi' Dima, at the end of the story, is happy to be imprisoned

inside the jar and eats and drinks happily. Don Lollò is the greedy owner who, for once, cannot do as he pleases. The story is comical that is, it's funny, makes you laugh. However, it is a sad comedy because life, after the breakup of the jar, will return to that of always for Zi' Dima and for all the farmers. Don Lollò will always be the master.

1. When was Luigi Pirandello born?
2. What kind of stories did he write?
3. What important award did he win in 1934?
4. Which collection is "La giara" part of?
5. What are his stories about?
6. Is "La giara" a comedy story?
7. Is it a sad or funny story? Why?
8. Did you like the story? Which character did you love more or less and why?

RESEARCH work (group 2)

Luigi Pirandello was born on June 28, 1867 in the villa called Caos near Girgenti (today Agrigento). The family owns some land. After high school, he briefly joined his father in running a sulphur mine. He enrolled first at the University of Palermo, then moved to the Faculty of Arts of the University of Rome, but due to a contrast with the

Dean, he moved to the University of Bonn, where in 1891 he graduated in Romance Philology. In 1892, firmly determined to devote himself to his literary vocation, he settled in Rome, where he lived on a monthly allowance from his father. In the literary environment of the capital he meets and befriends with the fellow countryman [Luigi Capuana](#), who pushes him towards the field of fiction. He composed the first novels and his first novel, published in 1901 with the title *L'exclusa*. In 1894 he married Maria Antonietta Portulano, daughter of a wealthy associate of his father, in Girgenti, with an arranged marriage between the families. He settled permanently in Rome, where his three sons Stefano (1895), Rosalia (1897) and Fausto (1899) were born. Pirandello always lives with discomfort the relationship with his fragile and restless wife, feeling the strong weight of the behavioral rules dating back to Sicilian roots. He began a dense collaboration with several newspapers and literary magazines, on which he published a rich and extensive narrative production that found support among the public, but indifference on the part of critics. He wrote the novel *Il turno* (published in 1902) and worked on his first theatrical texts. In 1903 the expansion of a sulphur mine caused the Pirandello family a serious economic disruption: his father Stefano lost his daughter-in-law's dowry along with his capital. Following the news of the sudden financial disaster, Antonietta, already suffering from nerves, falls into a very serious crisis that will last a

lifetime in the form of mental illness. Pirandello's attempts to show that reality is not as it seems to his wife will be in vain. Abandoning the temptation to commit suicide, Pirandello tried to cope with the desperate situation, assisting Antonietta (who would be placed in a nursing home only in 1919); and to round off her meagre university salary, she gave private lessons and intensified her collaboration with magazines and newspapers.

In 1904 *Il fu Mattia Pascal* published in episodes on the «New Anthology», was such a success that one of the most important publishers of the time, Emilio Treves of Milan, decided to take care of the publication of his works. In 1908 he published two non-fiction volumes *Art and Science* and *L'Umoreismo*, thanks to which he obtained the appointment as a full professor.

In 1909 he began his collaboration, which would last until his death, with the "Corriere della Sera", on which his novels gradually appeared; and he published the first part of the novel *The Old and the Young*.

Just in the years of the Great War, (dramatically lived also for the loss of the mother and for the departure of the children for the front), he writes some famous theatrical works: *Think about it James!*, *Liola* (1916), *So it is (if you like)*, *the rattle cap*, *The pleasure of honesty*. In 1918 the first volume of the *Nude Mask* was published, a title under which he collected his many theatrical texts. In 1920 the Pirandellian theatre became fully established, and from the following year it reached great international success with the masterpiece *Six Characters in Search of Author*.

In 1924 he formally joined the fascist party, from which he obtained support and funding for the company of the Teatro d'Arte in Rome which, under the direction of Pirandello himself, carried the Pirandello theatre around the world for three years (until 1928). In 1926 the novel *Uno, Nobody and One Hundred Thousand* Last Novel was published in volume, a "universal" story, a summary of all the author's narrative and theatrical activity.

In 1936 He receives the Nobel prize for literature. He became ill with pneumonia, while following the filming in Cinecittà of a film taken from *Il fu Mattia Pascal*. He died in his Roman house on 10 December 1936. The final edition of the *Novels for a year* (which also contains *La giara*) is published posthumously.

4. SEARCH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THE TEXT:

1. What was the name of Agrigento when Pirandello was born?
2. What was his father's job?
3. What university did he graduate from?
4. What is the title of his first novel?
5. How many children did he have?

6. What illness did his wife suffer from?
7. Did Pirandello only write novels or even for the theatre?
8. Can you find the title of his most famous play?
9. Underline the titles of the novels in red and those of the plays in blue.
10. What was his last novel?