



**The Millennials meet the Middle Ages - 3[^] LSM sez. B
a.s. 2020/2021**

3 [^] LSM B	NARRATOR	BOCCACCIO	CHAUCE R	MILLENNIAL	DECAMERON'S CHARACTERS	CANT. TALES' CHARACTERS
BOLZICCO	narrator					
BURELLI				M		
CANDOLO						CANT
CLEVA				M		
CONZ						Chaucer
COSTANTINI						CANT
DELLA BIANCA				M		
DURLI						CANT
IURI						CANT
LO IACONO					DEC	
MOSCATTINI				M		
NONINO		Boccaccio				
PADOAN						CANT
PETRELLA	Narrator					
QUAS					DEC	
RIILI						CANT
RODARO					DEC	

SACIOTT O				M		
TABOGA						CANT
VENIER					DEC	
ZANELLA					DEC	

1 st scene: The decision after the boredom

Background: The Millennials' homes

Characters: Narrator (Maya), The Millennials (Sara, Annalisa, Chiara DB, Carlotta, Tommaso, Gianluca)

Narrator: The students are all bored after many hours spent in front of the Computer's screen and so they decide to overcome their boredom by using a new program studied with the IT teacher

Sara I'm very tired after looing at the PC screen for 5 hours... what can we do to have some fun?

M Gianluca We could watch the new TV series, reviews are very positive!

M Tommaso Why don't we try and use the new PC program that the IT teacher explained us some weeks ago?

Annalisa the one which uses teletransportation effects if we press the same key simultaneously?

Carlotta Yes, exactly that one!

Chiara DB: But the teacher told us that we can't use it alone without his supervision! It's brand new and there are some hidden and mysterious functions which he must still study and test.

M Tommaso Don't worry, let me try, nothing bad can happen to us.

Carlotta Yes, Tommaso is right! Let's try, nothing bad can happen to us!

ALL ok then! Let's do it! Let's try!

Students press the same key

Special effects (purple cloud as a background)

2nd scene: Back to the past

Background with S. M. del Fiore for the Millennials; Boccaccio for Filippo/Boccaccio and painting by Waterhouse for Boccaccio's characters

Characters: The Millennials + Boccaccio + Boccaccio's characters

Narrator/Maya: The Millennial suddenly find themselves in the distant Middle Ages, in the countryside near Florence, and something very special is going to happen...

The Millennials appear

MChiara: Look!! what have we done?? Where are we?? We are in the fields!

MCarlotta: Look, what's that building over there? It doesn't look like our Cathedral's dome in Udine, not even our magnificent Tempio Ossario

MAnnalisa: No, it isn't! It looks more like The Cathedral's dome in Florence

MTommaso Yes, because we ARE in Florence....

MSara: So it seems the program has worked very well! We are in another place now! We are in Florence!

MChiara: Oh my God...I told you we shouldn't have disobeyed our teacher by pressing that key!

MTommaso: Don't worry guys, everything is under control!

Carlotta: It doesn't look like....

MGianluca: But...look! Who is coming over there?

Narrator: Other teenagers appear on the scene, but they look very different from the Millennials...

Massimiliano, Jury, Alyssa, Giulia LI, Margherita appear with the background of Decameron's characters

MAnnalisa: Hi everybody. You look very weird....who are you?

DECMassimiliano: Who are YOU, you look very strange and weird! Where do you come from? Do you come from the stars?

Narrator: Somebody else appears, a very special person...

Filippo switches the camera on

The Millennials say "OHHHH!!!"

Filippo(Boccaccio) Hi everybody, my name is Giovanni, Giovanni Boccaccio and these are my characters, the Decameron's characters. They are going to a magnificent villa here in the outskirts of Florence because they are running away from the city of Florence. In fact, a terrible plague has befallen us and these boys

and girls want to go to a safer place than the city, in order to spend some time together without thinking too much about the pandemic which is spreading and terribly rising the toll number!

MGianluca: But this means that we are in the Middle Ages!

MCarlotta: I know who you are! You are the famous writer Giovanni Boccaccio, the author of the Decameron!

Boccaccio Yes, that's me!

MGianluca And these are the characters of the Decameron!

MTommaso: To be honest, I'm not very much into literature, I'd rather prefer Maths to Italian...

MChiara DB That's why we are here...because you love Maths so much that you have taken us back in time, in the Middle Ages!

Filippo: Yes exactly, you are in the Middle Ages.

MAnnalisa Mr. Boccaccio, can we talk to your characters and ask them some questions?

Boccaccio of course you can

3rd scene: Ms talk to Decameron's characters

Characters: The Millennials + Boccaccio (Filippo)
+ Boccaccio's characters (Massimiliano, Jury, Margherita, Alyssa, Giulia LI)

Maya/Narrator: The Millennials meet the characters of Decameron, Boccaccio's most famous masterpiece and they talk together, finding out many similarities between them

M Annalisa Hi guys, we come from the future, from the 21st century. It's so exciting to get to know you in person!

MGianluca You know, you have become very famous meanwhile... you are in all books of literature, we study both you and your tales at school ..

DEC Jur: Really? Are we really so famous? We are just ten young people – seven women and three men – who are fleeing Florence and the Black Plague to take shelter in a villa in the countryside to entertain themselves.

DEC

Massimiliano: and of course we hope we will win prizes as well! Our creator told us that the best story will win a prize every day! Didn't you promise us many prizes?

Boccaccio: Of course I did promise you prizes, but your stories must be original and smart!

MTommaso: Maybe you don't know that your stories, the way they are told and their themes have become a milestone in Italian literature!

Boccaccio (smiling with pride): I knew I was doing something great! (exults) but not THAT great!!

Maya: they seem to like each other and they keep on talking together.....

DEC Giulia LI Nice to meet you guys from the future. I'm Dioneo and they are (names of the Decameron's characters) but..., what's the future? What does it mean?

MTommaso It means that we come from the 21st century, we are the Millennials, or to be more precise, we belong to Generatio Z (zed)! Future is all the years yet to come!

DEC Margherita Wow, you come from the future! That sounds great! Life there must be very different from our miserable age.

M Carlotta: To be honest...it's not that different...we are also used at telling stories to overcome problems, just like you are doing in your walk to the countryside....telling stories can help overcome troubles...

DEC Alyssa/Ellissa: Really? So you have copied us!

MChiara DB We did not copy, you we simply liked the idea of storytelling. We talk about ideas, passions, hobbies, curiosities, events, important issues, life experiences but they are not just only written down on paper sheets, they are digital!

DEC Alyssa: what does digital mean?

M Tommaso Thanks to the development in technology, we know how to fit our stories in multimedia podcasts containing texts, quotes, images, music and videos!

DEC Quas: It sounds very interesting!

MGianluca(shows his mobphone) Yes, it is really very interesting. Have a look here, this is an example of our way to tell stories:
Video di Malignani Talks (Tommaso's MTalk)

Boccaccio: Unfortunately copyright doesn't exist yet... anyway I'm happy if I have given you a good idea!

Narrator: While chatting together they discover another similarity...

M Carlotta:

And we are also having a lot of troubles because we are also undergoing a terrible pandemic, exactly like you are. It is called Covid-19

DEC Giulia LI Really? Tell us more about this pandemic of yours...

M Gianluca: World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, concluded that the virus probably originated in bats and passed to people through an intermediate animal. But fundamental questions remain about when, where and how COVID-19 first infected people.

DEC Alyssa: We are pretty sure that our plague originated from God's wrath (odio) as a punishment to mortals for our wicked deeds, It originated some years before in the East and has been killing an infinite number of people as it is relentlessly spreading from one place to another, until finally it has stretched its miserable length all over the West, and here in Florence.

M Chiara DB People with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms are the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue,

muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

DEC Quas: Almost at the beginning of springtime of last year, the plague began to show its sorrowful effects in an extraordinary manner. It did not assume the form it had in the East, where bleeding from the nose was a manifest sign of inevitable death, but rather showed its first signs in men and women alike by means of swellings either in the groin or under the armpits, some of which grew to the size of an ordinary apple and others to the size of an egg (more or less), and the people called them buboe.

DEC Giulia LI: And from the two arts of the body already mentioned, in very little time, the deadly buboes began to spread indiscriminately over every part of the body; then, after this, the symptoms of the illness changed to black or livid spots appearing on the arms and thighs, and on every part of the body – sometimes there were large ones and other times a number of little ones scattered all around.

M: Chiara DB Social distancing and the use of masks are very important to prevent this virus to spread

DEC: Alyssa: Also here we are applying social distancing: some people gather in small groups and live entirely apart from everyone else, others just keep on doing everything that they like doing the most and many others adopt a middle course between the two attitudes just described: neither did they restrict their food or drink so much as the first group nor did they fall into such dissoluteness and drunkenness as the second; rather, they satisfied their appetites to a moderate degree.

M Annalisa I'm very sorry to hear that.... I know how the story goes..but let's not forget about vaccines!

DEC Marghe: Vaccines? What are vaccines?

M Annalisa The vaccine is a suspension of weakened, killed or fragmented microorganisms mainly used to prevent infectious disease. A vaccine can give active immunity against a specific agent by stimulating the immune system to attack the agent. Vaccines are usually given by injection, but some are given orally or even nasally. For most vaccines, we need to give multiple doses to achieve or maintain protection but the scientific community is working on developing single-shot vaccines. Now, for examples, people are being given vaccines to fight Covid-19 and we hope that by the end of this year, the pandemic will be stopped!

DEC Zanella: Here the situation is terrible: neither a doctor's advice nor the strength of medicine can do any thing to cure this illness; on the contrary, either the nature of the illness was such that it has no cure, or else the doctors are so ignorant that they do not recognize its cause and, as a result, cannot prescribe the proper remedy. As a result few of

the sick have been cured, and almost all died after the third day of the appearance of the previously described symptoms.

M Tommaso: Now medicine has developed a lot and our doctors and nurses are amazing!

The research has been improving a lot since your ages, but you must wait some centuries yet to come...in the meanwhile...you can keep on telling your nice stories....

MCarlotta Can we come with you? We would like to listen to your stories like in a live show, we are excited!

DEC Massimiliano Yes of course. Now it's Griselde's turn

DEC Giulia LI "The **Story of Griselda**" is about a woman whose husband tests her loyalty by convincing her that he killed their children and by kicking her out of their home. Because she remains loyal to him, he invites her to return home and reunites her with their children.

4th scene M + DEC decide to go together to the UK and meet Chaucer

Characters: The Millennials + Boccaccio + Boccaccio's characters **Maya/Narrator:**
The Millennials realize it's getting late, it's time to go back home.

M/Gianluca it's getting late guys, it's time to go back home. It has been a real pleasure Decameron's characters and Mr. Boccaccio to get you know for real, but our parents are waiting for us, we must go back home now!

DEC all I see / I understand....

DEC Quas It's has been a pleasure also for us, your stories about the future have been so amazing! We will be missing you...

M/Tommaso: Let's exchange our addresses, somehow we will find the way to keep in touch!

DEC all: It would be great! Great idea!

DEC/Alyssa It sounds great! I like the idea! What's your address Tommaso?

Maya/Narrator They exchange their addresses and then the Millennials have an idea
SS exchange addresses with their microphones muted

M/Carlotta: I have an idea! Why don't we use our powerful software again and go to England before going back home? I have always wanted to visit Harry Styles's homeland!

M/Annalisa OK, why not? We can do it! Our English teacher will be happy to know that we have been there to improve our English!

M/ Chiara DB: But we must go back home! It's late, our parents will for sure be worried if we don't go back home before sunset!

M/Tommaso I promise you, we will be back by the end of the evening! By the way, Florentine friends how about coming with us? It will be a great experience!

Boccaccio: It is a good idea, I might get some inspiration for my future stories!

DEC/ Margherita We are ready, we are looking forward to travelling with you!

Maya/Narrator Everybody is happy. Tommaso presses the magic key and everybody finds themselves in England, but not exactly where they had meant to go...

5th scene in the UK

Characters (almost everybody, except Chaucer)

Background: from the purple cloud to the Canterbury Cathedral

Maya/Narrator The new group of friends find themselves in England.

Narrator/Sara But they are not in London! They are in Canterbury, close to the famous gothic Cathedral.

M/Carlotta Where are we? It doesn't seem to be London!

M/Gianluca In fact we are not in London, we are in Canterbury, this is the Cathedral we studied with our teachers at school!

DEC Giulia LI WOW, that's amazing, it's very different from our Cathedral.

M/ Chiara DB They are different but they were both built in the Gothic style.

DEC/Margherita Really? What is Gothic style? What does gothic mean?

Narrator/Sara The guys start to explain the main features of the Gothic style in architecture

M/Tommaso Gothic refers to the main characteristics of the churches. Look here (TOMMASO shares his PPT on the Gothic architecture)

there are **Pointed arches**, or curved constructions that span an opening such as a portal or window and **Archivolts**, a series of decorated arches spanning an opening such as a portal

M/Annalisa There are also **Pillars**, or supports that do not need to be cylindrical like a column. They can be either rectangular, octagonal, circular, or cruciform and there are **pinnacles**, small narrow pointed towers

DEC/Quas I have some knowledge of the gothic style, I'm a scholar! **Spires** are also a characteristic of the gothic churches: they are sharply pointed pyramidal structures surmounting a tower.

DEC/Alyssa I'm also a scholar, I know everything about **Rose windows**: they are large round windows on the west façade and there are also **Polychrome stained glass**: a set of glass plates with different degrees of opacity, mounted on a lead frame.

DEC/Massimiliano Look, who is coming down there?

Maya/Narrator some other characters join the group

6th scene in the UK, the Canterbury Tales' pilgrims appear

Characters: EMMA, GIULIA C., ELEONORA, DAVIDE, CHIARA R., SAMUELE, SAMUEL

The **PILGRIMS** switch their cameras with the background of the Canterbury Cathedral

Sara/Narrator The new characters are the famous pilgrims of the Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer, heading for the shrine of Thomas Becket in the Cathedral of Canterbury

Chiara R./CANT: We have reached the Cathedral, at last!!

Samuel/CANT: Yes, I am so tired! I couldn't help it anymore

Maya/ NARRATOR: The pilgrims notice a strange group of people walking by, and they wonder who they might be

Samuele/CANT: "I like your style! Who are you? Why are you here?"

M/Annalisa We are the Millennials, or the Generation Z, to be more precise.

M/Tommaso We come from the future, from the 21st century and the future is all the years yet to come!

DEC/Massimiliano and we are the characters of the Decameron, the famous collection of stories written by Giovanni Boccaccio, the very famous Italian writer from Florence.

DEC/Boccaccio And I am Giovanni Boccaccio in person, the famous Italian writer.... Or at least it seems that I have become very famous in the meanwhile...

Cant/Eleonora Really? How did you manage to come here?

Cant/Chiara R from the future!

Cant /Davide from Italy!

Cant/Emma from the past!

Cant Samuele from Florence!

M/Gianluca It's a long story...it all started while we were getting very bored after a lot of time spent in front of our PC screen....

Sara/Narrator The Millennials and the characters of the Decameron tell the new guys about their amazing voyage across space and time

Maya/Narrator In the meanwhile somebody else joins the group

Sara/Narrator And this is another very famous character...

Chaucer/Mattia appears on the video with his own background, light blue/black garments

Maya/Narrator The Millennials, Boccaccio and his characters meet Geoffrey Chaucer and his pilgrims

M/Annalisa Look, there's somebody else here! The whole scene is getting very crowded! Who are you?

Mattia/Chaucer My name is Chaucer. Geoffrey Chaucer

Filippo/Boccaccio: Hi Geoffrey! It's nice to see you again!

Mattia/Chaucer Nice to see you again, old sport! How are you getting on?

Boccaccio Not so well, to be honest....Things keep on being very critical in Italy, you know, the Black Plague.....when you first came to Italy in 1372 on a diplomatic mission I told you about it..... By the way, as far as I can see, it seems you have followed my advice...

Mattia/Chaucer Yes, and I will for ever be grateful to you! You have given me a great inspiration for my Tales, The Canterbury Tales! Look how many characters I have created!

Boccaccio/Filippo Yes, they are really a lot!

Chaucer/Mattia Yes, they are, and they are not only aristocrats like your characters, but they belong to all walks of life!

Boccaccio/Filippo Look, it seems they have already made friends with each other!

Sara/Narrator And so our guys discover another similarity among themselves: the beauty of friendship, the importance of spending time together, the importance of positive feeling

Maya/Narrator friendship, a universal and timeless value, which crosses centuries and countries

Sara/Narrator together with other two universal and timeless feelings all human beings share and have: the fear of diseases and the fear of death

7th scene The Wife of Bath's Tale and the condition of women in the Middle Ages

Maya/narrator Everybody is into storytelling, now it's the Wife of Bath's turn...everybody is hooked by her charming voice and engaging tale and listens to her in silence

Giulia with the Wife of Bath's background.

Cant/Giulia "experience" will be my guide. I have travelled around the world as a pilgrim, visiting Jerusalem, Boulogne, Rome, Santiago de Compostela and Cologne, and now I am doing another pilgrimage to Canterbury. Furthermore, I must confess that I got married five times and I had many lovers when I was young. I am exactly what our contemporary Church, that is the medieval Church, sees as a "wicked woman" but I am very proud of it. I am wealthy, resourceful and an expert embroiderer and I usually wear extravagant clothes, including scarlet tights and very expensive leather shoes. I am described as "gap-toothed", "red in hue" and "handsome", having "large hips" and a "bold face".

DEC/Massimiliano You are very charming indeed!

CANT/Giulia Three husbands of mine have been "good" and two have been "bad". The first three were good, I must admit, mostly because they were rich, old and submissive. They were right! I proudly use my verbal and sexual power to bring my husbands to total submissions.

While the girls are talking, background with the PPT on the Condition of women in the Middle Ages

DEC/Margherita: Wow, you must be a very powerful and wise woman! In our medieval times women are considered inferior to men by nature and by law, our lives are hard and full of pain and suffering even though the ones born into noble families are freer than the poor ones.

CANT/Eleonora Unfortunately this happens also here in England!

DEC Giulia LI Yes, you are right! Women are submitted to the wishes of males, firstly to their father and after to their husbands.

CANT/Eleonora Women inherit the property of the father only if they are only child, and they lose it as soon as they get married.

CANT/Chiara. R Our primary job is to have and raise children to continue the generation; most of us get married very young and we have the first child about at the age of 15 but it isn't rare that a woman dies when she is giving birth.

DEC/Emma Peasant women's first job is to work sheep's wool with the spindle: they are using so much this tool that it has become the symbol of peasant women.

CANT/Chiara R. In the cities we have more opportunities to get a job but, unlike men, we are banned from professional guilds. This is unfair!

M/Chiara DB Also In our age women are unluckily most of the times submitted by their men.

M/Carlotta And many times they even get brutally killed by them!

DEC Alyssa Really? Although also in our age women are generally considered inferior to men, our Creator, Mr. Boccaccio, seems to prefer **women** as the better sex in terms of both good and evil, don't you Mr. Boccaccio?

Boccaccio/Filippo Yes, of course I do prefer you by far, even though there are also a lot of nice and very kind gentlemen!

DEC/Jury/Massimiliano We are happy to hear that Mr. Boccaccio!

Sara / Narrator The conversation is interrupted by the Merchant one of the Canterbury Tales' pilgrims

Cant/Samuel/The Merchant I have also a story to tell you, but it is not a tale, it sounds more like a riddle listen to me.

Scene 8 – Geoffrey Chaucer appears; The Merchant's riddle and its solution

Chaucer What's going on ? What in the hell are you doing Mr. Merchant? Are you getting crazy? You are not supposed to tell a riddle in my book!

Sara/Narrator You may not know about it, but the riddle told by the Merchant perfectly fits into the Canterbury Tales since Mr. Henry Dudeney, the famous mathematician, in the first part of his mathematical puzzle book *The Canterbury Puzzles and Other Curious Problems* he wrote in 1907, features a series of puzzles based on the characters from *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer.

CANT/Samuel Come on Mr. Chaucer! Be flexible! Let's give a mathematical wave to these stories of yours and of ours! What's more, mine is a very interesting and challenging riddle!

Chaucer You are spoiling my story! And what's more, nobody will ever solve the riddle! And this will make you look bad and everybody will feel embarrassed!

DEC/Jury Come on Mr. Chaucer, don't be a pain in the neck! Such a smart and intelligent person like you are, must for sure be ready to face unexpected events!

M/Chiara DB Let's listen to the riddle

Chaucer Oh my God! I have no control over my characters, anymore! nobody is following my instructions! But, go on Mr. Merchant

DEC/Boccaccio Let's give it a go, let's listen to the Riddle.

Chaucer Ok then you have convinced me!

Picture of Riddle n. 12

CANT/Samuel I am sure nobody will solve it (grinning smile) Here is a riddle in numbers that I will set before this merry company when next we do make a halt. There be thirty of us in all riding over the common this morn. Truly we may ride one and one, in what they do call the single file, or two and two, or three and three, or five and five, or six and six, or ten and ten, or fifteen and fifteen, or all thirty in a row. In no other way may we ride so that there be no lack of equal numbers in the rows. Now, a party of pilgrims were able thus to ride in as many as sixty-four different ways. Prithce tell me how many there must perforce have been in the company.

Maya/Narrator The Merchant clearly required the smallest number of people that could so ride in the sixty-four ways

Narr/Sara Everybody tries to solve the riddle (Can it be...? It can be...We may suppose that....)

Tommaso We have the solution: the smallest natural number with 64 divisors is 7560!!

CANT/Samuel How did you manage to solve it??

M/Tommaso I am very fond of Maths and so, together with the help of Mr. Boccaccio and Sara, our Narrator, we have succeeded in creating an algorithm to solve the riddle! I didn't know that they are also so good at Maths!

Narra/Sara our IT teacher has taught us an algorithm which has proved to be very useful to solve the riddle

Chaucer: Could you please tell us how you've been able to solve the riddle?

MTommaso Yes, of course..... the problem is that, given a natural number d , power of a prime number, we should find the smallest number n , which has exactly d divisors.

Boccaccio The number of divisors d of a natural number n can be calculated starting from the prime factorization $n = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \dots p_r^{a_r}$ of the number itself using the formula: $d = (a_1 + 1) \cdot (a_2 + 1) \dots (a_r + 1)$

Sara In this case $d = 64$ and we are asked to determine n .

64 is decomposed as 2^6 which can also be written as $2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$, where every 2 is equal to $a + 1$ with $a = 1$ so $64 = (1 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1)$.

$n = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 = 30030$

Tommaso In reality this is not the lowest number with this property, because by increasing the exponents of the minor prime factors that appear in the decomposition of the number n initially generated, we find other numbers with the same property. We continue like this until the prime factors that we want to eliminate from the decomposition of n are smaller than the added factors: in this case the new number n obtained also increases and it is deduced with certainty that the number found in the previous step is the lowest among all those having dividers.

Sara $64 = 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = (3 + 1) \cdot (3 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1) \cdot (1 + 1)$

Is 3^2 less than 11? Yes, so the exponent of the prime factor 3 is increased by two units and the number $n = 2^3 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 = 7560 < 9240$ is obtained

$64 = 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 = (3 + 1) \cdot (3 + 1) \cdot (3 + 1)$

Is 5^2 less than 7? No, so the number obtained by increasing the exponent of the prime factor 5 by two units is greater than the previous number, that is

$n = 2^3 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^3 = 27000 > 7560$.

Tommaso We therefore deduce that the smallest natural number with 64 divisors is 7560.

PPT on GeoGebra

Narr/Maya The Millennials look at the Canterbury Cathedral, which is very close now, and they make other connections with what they studied at school.

M/Annalisa Look: we have also studied the conics and the spiers of the gothic cathedrals, as well as an analysis of

the typical rose windows of the facades of Gothic cathedrals from a mathematical point of view

M/Gianluca Yes, they are geometric figures that can be characterized on the basis of isometries that do not modify the figure. In mathematical language “they keep the figure fixed”.

Boccaccio There is a famous theorem, attributed to a friend of mine, Leonardo da Vinci, which deals with this issue.

Millennials We know about it!

Everybody: But look now over there. Here it is the Cathedral!

Narrator /Maya They have reached the famous Cathedral of Canterbury, where the shrine of Thomas Beckett is kept.

Scene 9th - Reason for the pilgrimage: the visit to the tomb of Thomas Becket

M Chiara DB What are we doing here? Why are we here?

CANT Chiara R Don't you know why? We have been travelling from London to Canterbury Cathedral because we are going on a pilgrimage to St. Thomas Becket's grave.

M Gianluca Who is Thomas Becket?

CANT/Samuele Don't you know who Thomas Becket is? I will tell you the story. Henry the Second was the king who ruled over England, Ireland and parts of France in the 12th century. He had a good friend, whose name was Thomas Becket. In order to have power also over the Church, the King chose him as the Archbishop of Canterbury. In particular, he had to convince workers of the Church to obey his court and not the Pope's one.

CANT Emma However, the King was informed that Becket didn't follow his orders, so he was considered a traitor because he supported both the King and the Pope, so the King got furious.

CANT Davide Henry got furious and the knights decided to kill him, but he got misunderstood by his knights because in fact he had never said that he wanted to kill the Archbishop. He was so troublesome that he annoyed the King, but unfortunately his knights listened to his wishes about getting rid of him. On the 29th of December 1170, he four knights went into the Cathedral and Thomas Becket let them get inside the Church. He was murdered by the knights for being Henry's traitor and his head was teared up with a sword.

DEC/Alyssa I didn't know that King Henry didn't mean to kill Thomas Becket! Not even that they were friends.

CANT Eleonora One year later, as a revenge, the King Henry was flogged by some monks as a punishment exactly in the same place where his friend Thomas had died.

CANT Samuele In the end the King and the Archbishop's friendship ended in death, even if Henry didn't want to kill Thomas. Despite these are the historical facts which really happened, the truth was that king Henry II and Thomas Beckett were actually friends.

CANT Giulia C From that moment Becket's shrine became a famous destination for pilgrims. That's why we are here.

File word by Chiara R. on Thomas B and the 4 sources

CANT Emma/the Nun What's even more interesting is that a monk called *Edward Grim* witnessed the cruel scene and he reported the facts as they really happened.

CANT Samuele The Nun is right. From Edward Grim's report, we know that the Archbishop managed to stand as long as he received the third sword's blow. He said that he was ready to die but the knights had no mercy about him and stained with

his blood the Cathedral floor. One of their sword broke down due to the hard hitting and Becket's brain was scattered all over the ground.

Share Source A

CANT Davide as you can see from SOURCE A by Edward Grim, although the monks tried to lock the doors to protect the Archbishop, he didn't want to make his cathedral stand like a fortress because Becket was a religious man, so he ordered the monks to give up any resistance and let the knights come inside the church.

CANT Chiara R. Becket then denied the accuse of being a traitor and consequently declared himself as a prier of God, ready to die for him

M Tommaso Becket was a very religious and brave man.

Share Source B

CANT Emma Yes, a very brave man indeed. Look here, Becket's murder was his own decision. Meanwhile the monk Edward Grim seems to surrender to the knights, Beckett in this picture looks clearly ready to face his opponents.

Share Source C

CANT Giulia C. This image shows Henry II and Thomas Becket greeting each other in a quite kind way, while the king's knights behind th priest have the swords hold off. That's the clear proof that they get along together. By the way, do you know why Becket was considered a saint?

M Annalisa: Because he was a good-hearted man I suppose?

Share picture of *hair shirt*

DEC Davide No, not only because of this. To be really honest, people say that he was a real pain in the neck because he was very strict with Christian rules. He became saint mainly because there were rumours going by that when he was assassinated by the 4 knights of King Henry II, he was wearing such a heary hair shirt that a lot of fless and lice came out of his body and people thought they were running out of his flesh, and so they thought he was a saint!

M Carlotta This sounds very interesting and funny as well...but, what is an hair shirt?

Share picture of hair shirt

DEC Zanella An hair shirt is also known as a **sackcloth**. It was originally a garment or undergarment made of coarse cloth or animal hair (a **hairshirt**) worn close to the skin. It is used by members of various Christian traditions including the Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Scottish Presbyterian churches as a self-imposed means of repentance and mortification of the flesh.

CANT Davide Hair shirts were originally made from sackcloth or coarse animal hair so they would irritate the skin. Other features were added to make cilices more uncomfortable, such as thin wires.

Everybody Poor St. Thomas Becket... let's go and pray him

Sara / Narrator The pilgrims, the Millennials and the characters of the Decameron become all religiously silent.

Scene 10th Salutations: the end of the trip
the Millennials help the DEC to go back to Florence and then go back home

Narrator/Maya A noise wakes all up from their numbness (like an alarm clock)

DEC Giulia LI + Jury What's that! What is this noise?

M Chiara and Gianluca Don't worry guys.

M Carlotta This is an alarm clock, we must wake up and be ready to go to school!

M Tommaso Come on Carlotta! This is just my alarm clock which is telling me that it's time to go back home. The teletransportation effects are expiring, we must hurry up.

DEC Alyssa Oh no, it was so nice to stay all together. Please, do not go back.

M Tommaso We have exchanged addresses, we will keep in touch, we promise you all!

M Chiara DB Yes, we will be keeping in touch!

M Gianluca We must go now, we do not belong to this age

M Annalisa And what's more our parents are waiting for us, they might be very worried if we don't go back home.

DEC Margherita And what about us? Shall we stay here in England forever?

DEC Massimiliano Why not, it looks so nice here with all these green areas and fresh air

CANT Chiara R. You could stay in my house, we have plenty of space... (she blinks)

M Tommaso If I were you, I would come with us back to Italy. Italy is such a beautiful and culturally vivid country.

Chaucer I know you must go dear friend. It has been nice to see you again.

Boccaccio Yes, I must go back to Italy. I must get ready for my encounter with Francesco Petrarca, we will meet in 1350 so I must finish to read the Canzoniere or he may think I'm an illiterate. Take care my friend.

Chaucer Take care

DEC Alyssa We have learnt a lot of new interesting things from you all

DEC Margherita Yes, from the pilgrims we have learned the facts on Thomas Becket's life and death and the meaning of hair shirt to mortify the flesh.

DEC Giulia LI And from the Millennials we got much information on the Gothic style and on the secrets which hide behind the construction of a cathedral. It has been all very interesting

CANT Davide We have had a general overview on the conditions of women in our society and on the meaning of future and years yet to come.

M Chiara DB This has been an amazing trip. We have got to know other people, places and times and we have understood that some themes and emotions are timeless and universal like love, friendship and the fear of disease and death.

CANT Emma Now we also know the importance of storytelling as a healing way to overcome difficulties. Storytelling is a timeless means of sharing thoughts and it is a wonderful way to spend time together.

M Tommaso It's time to go now. Mr. Boccaccio and his characters, you must all close your eyes now, I will try to press these three keys on my mobile phone so as to let you go back in time in 1348.

Narrator Sara Boccaccio and his characters close their eyes and.... Again something mysterious happens

Boccaccio and his characters disappear.

M Tommaso Now it's our turn my friends. Just keep your eyes closed. Bye everybody, see you in some pictures in our English books!

Chaucer and the pilgrims say goodbye

Chaucer and the pilgrims disappear

Purple cloud as a background for the Millennials, eyes closed and cameras switched off one after the other...

Maya The Millennials travel again across space and time and when they open their eyes they find a surprise

The Millennials switch the camera on, their hair all upside down

M Annalisa What has happened. I was getting so bored because of this lockdown that I have fallen asleep and I had a dream! We were in the Middle ages

M Chiara DB I had the same dream and I was getting very bored too...

M Gianluca So did I... I had the same dream, I dreamt of meeting Chaucer and Boccaccio...this sounds very strange

M Carlotta I remember standing in front of a nice big rose window, but not the one I'm used to seeing here in Udine...

Tommaso holds a red scarf

M Chiara DB What are you holding Tommaso? It reminds me of something familiar...

M Tommaso The IT programme has worked very well: we have travelled across space and time! This scarf is very familiar to you because this is Giovanni Boccaccio's red hat... look

Tommaso wrap his head with the red scarf like Bopccaccio

M Tommaso We were not dreaming guys...we have no boundaries, we are all connected!

Sara We hope you have enjoyed the performance.

Maya We did (winks)