

Language Day

Studying Greek Literature

The writer Alexandros Papadiamantis

1. The students studied Papadiamantis novel "Fonissa".



2. After we read the novel, we watched a movie based on novel's story.



(Scenes from the movie)



3. The students worked in groups to discover the beauty of Papadiamanti's writing as well as the cultural and ideological elements of the storytelling period.

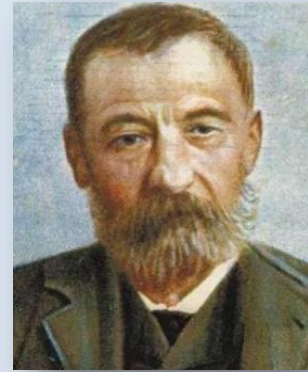




4. Students per group wrote a different end of the story.



Alexandros Papadiamantis (Skiathos, Greece, 1851 - 1911) is one of the most important Greek writers, known as "the saint of Greek letters", "the summit of the peaks" according to Konstantinos Cavafis. He has mainly written short stories, which have a prominent place in Modern Greek literature.



The novel "Fonissa" (=the woman who kills)

The *Fonissa* is a novel by the writer Alexandros Papadiamantis. This is his second writing work and is considered one of the top of Modern Greek literature. It is written in the kathareon language (an old version of modern Greek) and consists of 17 chapters. It was first published in the "Panathinaia" magazine in succession from January to June 1903, having the subtitle "social novel". The plot of the work unfolds in the writer's home country, Skiathos.

The story

The main face of the story is Fragogiannou, an elderly widow who has lived a tortured life as a child, as a husband, as a mother and as a grandmother, always trained to serve people in the surrounding area without any objection. Her experience has taught that a woman's life is full of pain and her theory was that the birth of a girl brings nothing but unhappiness not only to the child but to his family, especially if he is poor.

One night as she stays in the crib of the new-born granddaughter, she passes through her mind all the difficult moments of her life. Her mind blurs and kills the infant causing suffocation, while death is considered physiological by the doctor. Although initially she feels remorse, she deeply regrets her act. Instead, she becomes obsessed with the idea that her fate has ordered her to save the world by moving away from young girls.

Her next crimes are three young, innocent little girls, without any remorse, but without realizing the evil she has done. The gendarmerie suspects her and decides to arrest her for a crime she has not committed. That is, a little girl was drowned in a well and Fragogiannou was close. Although she wanted to drown the child, she never pushed her.

In her attempt to escape from the gendarmes, Frangogiannus decides to take refuge in the relic of an ascetic and confess her sins. But when he tries to overcome a narrow pass, the tide is over and the old woman dies between human and divine tests.