



SCENE 2

IN THE
PUPPET THEATER



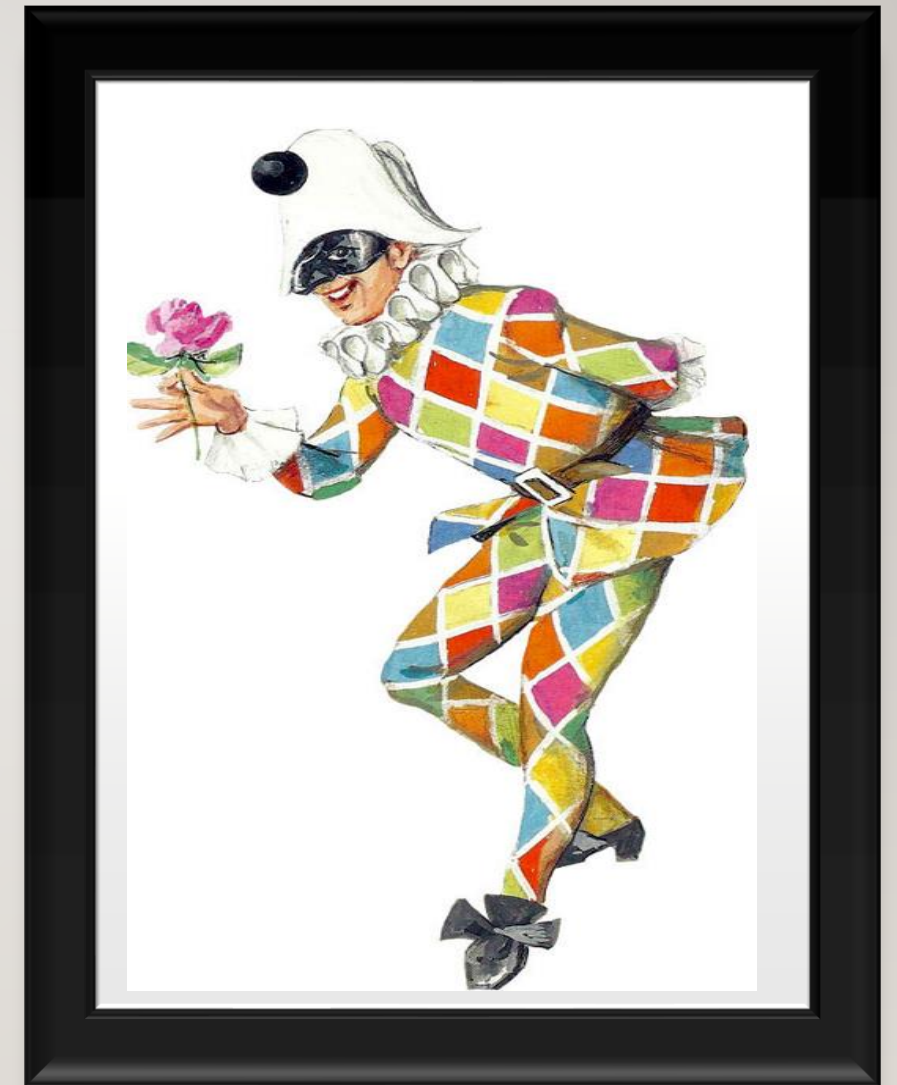
LET'S GO TO THE *SHOW!*

Puppet shows were among the most beloved amusements for people of all ages in the 19^o Century, the era in which PINOCCHIO was written. Two of the most well-known marionette characters, Harlequin and Punch, often entertain the audience with their antics.

ARLECCHINO (HARLEQUIN)

Arlecchino: this character-mask originated in Bergamo and represents the figure of a simpleton servant, endowed with good sense, but always in debt.

He is someone who is able to adapt himself to any situation and who would serve anyone in order to gain an advantage.



PULCINELLA - PUNCH



This character-mask, which comes from Naples, also represents the figure of a servant. He has a hunchback and a crooked nose, and wears a white shirt and cap. He is a neapolitan plebscrite that rebels against the upper middle class bourgeois, symbolizing the triumph of the people over the powerful.

THE OPERA CHORUS

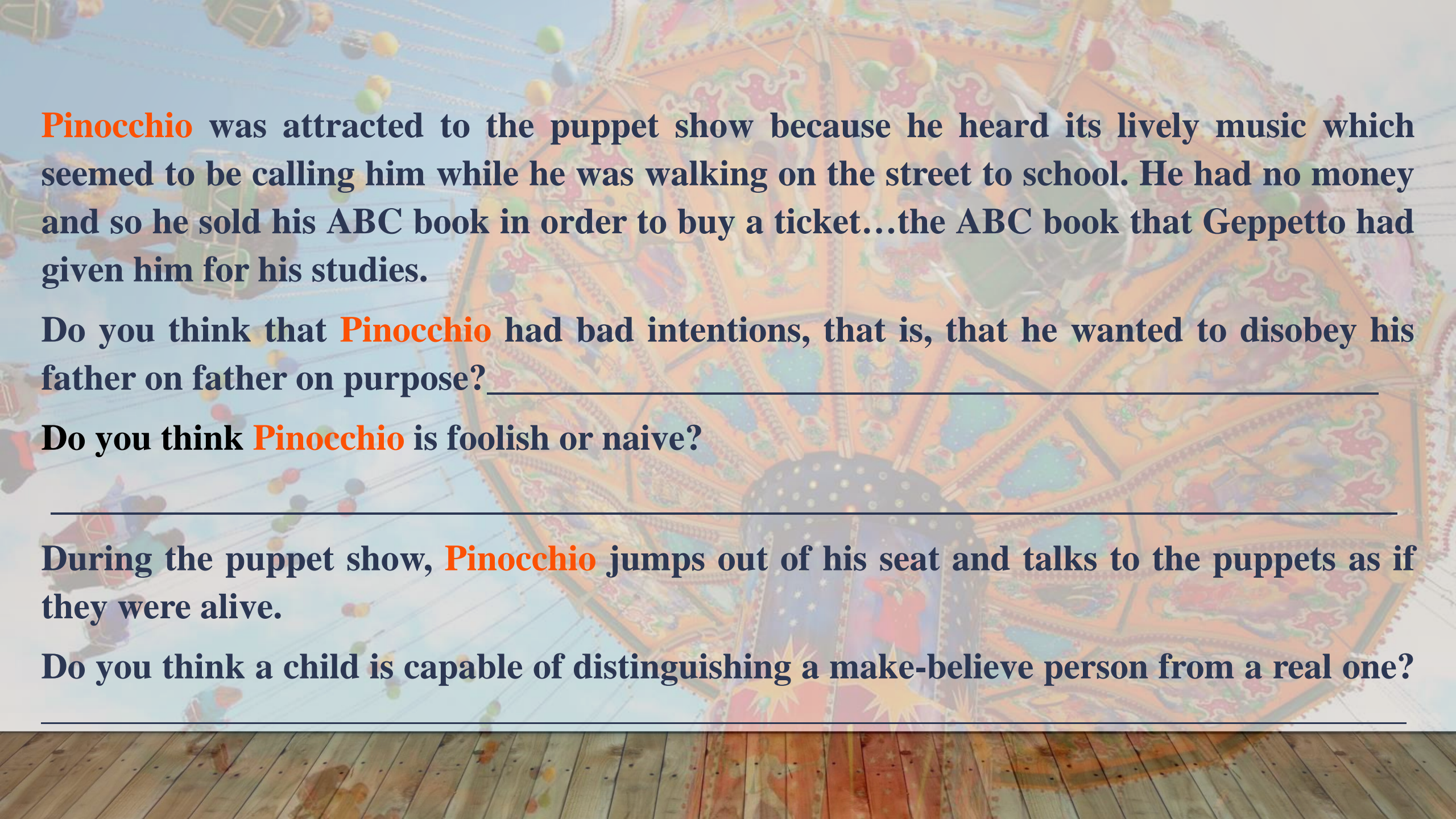


In this scene the Opera Chorus expresses the emotions of the puppet show. Many operas have choruses, even if in the majority of operas it is the individual singers that tell the story.

In this scene, the Opera Chorus must keep a good rhythm and sing in unison. Listen!



<https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxNli4OzNIA9LWcz37xtbtpdd23SAvQJkG>



Pinocchio was attracted to the puppet show because he heard its lively music which seemed to be calling him while he was walking on the street to school. He had no money and so he sold his ABC book in order to buy a ticket...the ABC book that Geppetto had given him for his studies.

Do you think that **Pinocchio** had bad intentions, that is, that he wanted to disobey his father on purpose? _____

Do you think **Pinocchio** is foolish or naive?

During the puppet show, **Pinocchio** jumps out of his seat and talks to the puppets as if they were alive.

Do you think a child is capable of distinguishing a make-believe person from a real one?



He is usually portrayed as mean and despotic.

*The aria of **Mangiafuoco***

I am powerful and cruel, everyone is afraid of me.

(pointing to the marionettes)

If they don't obey me, I throw them in the fire,

If they talk too much, I sink them in the swamp!

And you Pinocchio tonight will be useful

To make me a great big fire

To cook the turkey that I will eat for dinner!

MANGIAFUOCO

THE OWNER OF THE
PUPPET THEATER



Pinocchio implores and begs mercy from **Mangiafuoco**. At first, the puppet owner pays no attention. Then, **Pinocchio** cries out, saying that **Geppetto** sacrificed his only jacket to buy Pinocchio the ABC book. At this point **Mangiafuoco** hesitates. The fact that **Pinocchio** has a parent who would make such a sacrifice, impresses him. The cruel man gives in and makes a gesture to help poor Geppetto... **Mangiafuoco** gives **Pinocchio** five gold coins. At the beginning of the scene we saw **Pinocchio** sell his school book to buy a theater ticket. Now he intends to repay his father, using the coins to buy him a new jacket, and a new ABC book to take to school.

❄️ Do you think Pinocchio is wiser at the end of this scene? _____