

2. THEMATIC WALK - Propaganda

Italy declared war only in 1915, one year later than the rest of Europe. Between 28th July 1914 and 25th May 1915, this young nation was divided into two factions: the ones who wanted the war and the others who wanted neutrality. The several and violent debates kept on for a whole year: on the one hand the neutralists, led by socialists, who didn't accept to send farmers and workers fighting with other farmers and workers and dying for generals' will; on the other the interventists, who believed in the war value, as the only way for Italy to conquer the prestige and the fame of a real nation in Europe, beside all the other empires.

A third faction was represented by irredentists, a particular branch of interventists, formed by people who lived in the Habsburg territories that Italy claimed and who believed in Italian flag. These men decided to arruolate in Italian army in the face of their Austro-Hungarian nationality.

Among the interventists – above all men of letters and intellectuals – was born the artistic wave called Futurism, and some known artists like d'Annunzio. They use their art as propaganda to gain the agreement of Italian population for war declaration. In one year the production of propagandistic material increasingly grew up and the Italian families got even persuaded to give money to national banks, in order to help the fatherland with the arming.

QUESTIONS:

1. What's the meaning of propaganda and satire and what are they used for?
2. Invent some rhymes against the declaration of war.