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Professoressa Wenneker, Italiano 4 & 5

### Osservazione, analisi e discussione

*Bella Ciao* (1943), anthem song of the Italian Partigiani, the anti-fascist resistance



From 1922 to 1943, Italy was ruled by a far-right nationalistic and authoritarian regime called *fascism* that allied itself with Japan and Hitler's Nazi Germany. The Fascist Party in Italy controlled the government and was led by Benito Mussolini. Towards the end of the Second World War, however, Fascist Italy suffered defeats and setbacks, leading to Mussolini and the Fascists being removed from power. Nazi soldiers and law enforcement were brought in by Hitler as an occupying force to maintain stability. From 1943 to 1945, the Italian *Partigiani* (*Partisans*) anti-fascism and anti-Nazi Resistance fought a civil war to take back the Italian government, remove the Nazi occupiers, and eliminate fascism. This song was their rallying cry. The song is now used worldwide to promote freedom and resistance. **The lyrics are provided below in Italian and English, and we will hear a music clip.**

**Italian Lyrics**

‘Sta mattina mi \_\_\_ alzato

E seppellire lassù in montagna

O Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Ciao Ciao

O Bella Ciao

‘Sta mattina mi \_\_\_\_\_ alzato

Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Ciao Ciao

Ed \_\_ trovato l’invasor’

E seppellire lassù in \_\_\_\_\_

O partigiano portami via

Sotto l’ombra di un bel fior’

Oh Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Ciao Ciao

O partigiano portami \_\_

Tutte le \_\_\_\_\_ che passeranno

Che mi sento di morir

O Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Ciao Ciao

E se io muoio da \_\_\_\_\_

Ti diranno che bel \_\_\_’

O Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Bella Ciao Ciao Ciao

E questo è il \_\_\_ del partigiano,

E se io \_\_\_\_\_ da \_\_\_\_\_

Morto per la libertà.

Tu mi devi seppellir

O Bella Ciao Bella Ciao

Bella Ciao Ciao Ciao

**English Translation (literal; no meter or rhyme)**

This morning I \_\_\_\_\_

O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao (*means*  
' \_\_\_\_\_ ')

This morning I \_\_\_\_\_

And I found the invader (*refers to Nazi occupying force*)

Oh \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ me away,

O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao

Oh \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ me away,

For I feel I'm \_\_\_\_\_

And if I die as a \_\_\_\_\_

O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao

And if I die as \_\_\_\_\_

You have to \_\_\_\_\_ me

But bury me up in the \_\_\_\_\_

O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao,

But bury me up in the \_\_\_\_\_

Under the shadow of a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_

And the \_\_\_\_\_ who will pass by

O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao,

And the \_\_\_\_\_ who will pass by

Will say to me: "what a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_"

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

Who died for freedom

**Please fill in the missing lyrics using the word banks. Based on the picture, the Italian and English lyrics, and the music clip, please write your opinion of the song in Italian. Did you like it or did you not? Why?**

**Example: A me (mi) piace questa canzone perché... / A me non (mi) piace questa canzone perché...**

**Write observations, thoughts about why the song might be historically significant, and how it reflected what was going on in Italian society at the time. Try to write and discuss in Italian as much as possible, and please ask questions about any words and phrases that are challenging or confusing. Example: Secondo me, questa canzone è importante perché...**

**Work in groups. We will discuss this as a class.**

**Word Bank – Italian:**

**Fiore**

**Montagna**

**Sono**

**Ho**

**Via**

**Partigiano**

**Genti**

**Muoio**

**Word Bank – English:**

**Mountain**

**Up**

**People**

**Die**

**Bury**

**Flower**

**Partisan**

**Beautiful**

**Carry**

**Goodbye**

**Woke**