**Leggere il brano e rispondere alle seguenti 10 domande. (001 - 010)**

*Era una bella mattina di fine novembre. Nella notte aveva nevicato un poco, ma il terreno era coperto di un velo fresco non più alto di tre dita. Al buio, subito dopo laudi, avevamo ascoltato la messa in un villaggio a valle. Poi ci eravamo messi in viaggio verso le montagne, allo spuntar del sole. Come ci inerpicavamo per il sentiero scosceso che si snodava intorno al monte, vidi l'abbazia. Non mi stupirono di essa le mura che la cingevano da ogni lato, simili ad altre che vidi in tutto il mondo cristiano, ma la mole di quello che poi appresso essere l'Edificio. Era questa una costruzione ottagonale che a distanza appariva come un tetragono (figura perfettissima che esprime la saldezza e l'imprendibilità della Città di Dio), i cui lati meridionali si ergevano sul pianoro dell'abbazia, mentre quelli settentrionali sembravano crescere dalle falde stesse del monte, su cui s'innervavano a strapiombo. Dico che in certi punti, dal basso, sembrava che la roccia si prolungasse verso il cielo, senza soluzione di tinte e di materia, e diventasse a un certo punto mastio e torrione (opera di giganti che avessero gran familiarità e con la terra e col cielo). Tre ordini di finestre dicevano il ritmo trono della sua sopraelezione, così che cioè che era fisicamente quadrato sulla terra, era spiritualmente triangolare nel cielo. Nell'appressarvisi maggiormente, si capiva che la forma quadrangolare generava, a ciascuno dei suoi angoli, un torrione eptagonale, di cui cinque lati si protendevano al l'esterno - quattro dunque degli otto lati dell'ottagono maggiore generando quattro eptagoni minori, che all'esterno si manifestavano come pentagoni. E non è chi non veda l'amirevole concordia di tanti numeri santi, ciascuno rivelante un sottilissimo senso spirituale. Il nome della rosa, Umberto Eco, la biblioteca di repubblica, 2002.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>001. In quale mese dell’anno si svolge la descrizione?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Novembre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Ottobre.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Settembre.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) Dicembre.</td>
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<tr>
<th>002. Cosa fecero i protagonisti subito dopo le laudi?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Ascoltarono la messa in un villaggio a valle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Continuarono il cammino.</td>
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<td>C)Entrarono in abbazia.</td>
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<td>D) Si riposarono.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>003. Cosa descrive dettagliatamente il protagonista?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) L'abbazia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Il paesaggio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Il paese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) I personaggi.</td>
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<tr>
<th>004. Che impianto aveva l'abbazia?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Ottagonale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Esagonale.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Eptagonale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Quadrata.</td>
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<tr>
<th>005. Come appariva a distanza l'edificio?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) A tetragono.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) A esagono.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Pentagono.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) Rettangolo.</td>
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<tr>
<th>006. Il termine appressarsi cosa sta a significare?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Avvicinarsi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Allontanarsi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Pressarsi.</td>
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<td>D) Affrettarsi.</td>
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<tr>
<th>007. Cosa esprime la struttura a tetragono?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) La saldezza e l'imprendibilità della Città di Dio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) La razionalità divina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Le passioni terrene.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) L'imprevedibilità della Città di Dio.</td>
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<tr>
<th>008. In che ora della giornata si rimettono in viaggio i due personaggi?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) All’alba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Il pomeriggio.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) La sera.</td>
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<td>D) La notte.</td>
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<tr>
<th>009. Quanti lati del torrione si protendevano all’esterno?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Cinque.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Sei.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Sette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Otto.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
010. Dove si stanno dirigendo i personaggi del brano?
A) All’abbazia.
B) In chiesa.
C) In un villaggio.
D) In montagna.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>011. Nella frase &quot;La carta è stata incendiata da un tizzone ardente&quot;, &quot;da un tizzone ardente&quot; è un complemento di:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Causa efficiente.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Agente.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Specificazione.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) Termine.</td>
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<tr>
<th>012. Qual è il complemento di argomento nella frase &quot;Sul mio libro di storia ci sono diversi paragrafi sulla rivoluzione industriale di fine Settecento&quot;?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Sulla rivoluzione industriale.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B) Di storia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C) Sul mio libro.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) Di fine Settecento.</td>
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<tr>
<th>013. Indica quale di queste frasi contiene un aggettivo di grado superlativo assoluto?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Lisa è molto tesa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Lisa è più tesa del solito.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Lisa è meno tesa di ieri.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D) Lisa è la più tesa della classe.</td>
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<tr>
<th>014. Quale delle seguenti frasi non contiene un pronome riflessivo?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) I ragazzi del parchetto mi hanno fatto giocare con loro volentieri.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Ivan si rade tutte le mattine, anche quando rischia di fare tardi al lavoro.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Nacim e Sofia si sono conosciuti al mare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Fate attenzione con quel coltello: rischiate di tagliarvi.</td>
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<tr>
<th>015. Quale dei seguenti verbi può essere sia transitivo che intransitivo?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) Finire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) Arrossire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) Ridere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) Ignorare.</td>
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In modern Hollywood, amid all the hot intellectual properties, from Marvel superheroines to Mattel toys, the lucrative potential of one British author stands out: murder-mystery queen Agatha Christie. In 2017, Kenneth Branagh’s adaptation of one of her most celebrated novels, “Murder on the Orient Express”, in which he also starred as Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, hit big at the box office, grossing more than $350 million worldwide on a budget of $55 million. Now, five years later, and after many Covid-related delays, comes his take on another Poirot novel, Death on the Nile, released in cinemas last week. The appeal of these films? Well, that may be obvious: the chance to see ensembles packed with A-listers waltzing about in glamorous locations in service of a gripping plot.

Yet adapting Agatha Christie as mass 21st-Century entertainment is not without its complications: they are products of the time they were written in, the mid-20th Century, and arguably reflect some unsavoury attitudes not least when it comes to racism, xenophobia and colonialism. The question is therefore: how do you translate and update Agatha Christie – or not – for the modern age?

In “Murder on the Orient Express”, Branagh notably tried to update the source material in this respect, both through casting and the substance of the script. It began with a scene featuring a black policeman, played by Paapa Essiedu, while among the guests enjoying the luxury of the famous train were Dr Arbuthnot, an African-American doctor and former army sniper (played by Leslie Odom Jr), who was an amalgamation of two characters from the novel, an English colonel and a Greek physician; and Cuban-American car salesman Biniamino Marquez, played by Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, who again was Branagh’s invention, adapted from the Italian character Antonio Foscarelli. In one sense, these may seem like small tweaks, but they were important symbolically.

At the same time, however, the film uses these amendments to tackle themes of racism and xenophobia head on. For example, Odom Jr’s Dr Arbuthnot endures racist jibes from a fellow passenger, while he is involved in a dual-heritage relationship with Daisy Ridley’s governess Mary Debenham – something that Poirot himself comments will make life difficult for them because of the racist mores of the time. Elsewhere, the secretary Hector MacQueen (played by Josh Gad) tells Poirot that he isn’t racist but that he doesn't trust Cubans, and another character, Willem Dafoe’s Gerhard Hardman, is seemingly a white supremacist who espouses the kind of far-right views that were common in the 1930s, when the book was written and set.

Again, with Death on the Nile, Branagh has assembled a more inclusive cast than has been typical for Christie adaptations, from the opening flashback to Poirot’s time as a young soldier in the Belgian World War One trenches, in which black soldiers are prominent. Their presence pays tribute to the thousands of Congolese who fought for Belgium and is a rare cinematic depiction of how European forces relied on their colonies to help them fight their battles.

Then, as the main story kicks off, the cast of luxury-travellers-cum-suspects making their way down the Nile includes black British actors Sophie Okonedo and Letitia Wright playing aunt-and-niece duo Salome and Rosalie Otterbourne. In the novel the Otterbournes are a white British mother and daughter but the film makes them African-American blues musicians as well as tweaking their familial relationship. The film also features a new character, lawyer Andrew Katchadourian, played by Indian actor Ali Farzal and adapted from another character in the novel, Andrew Pennington: his heritage isn’t ever described, but you are led to assume he’s a British person of colour based on his upper-class British accent. The diverse casting also includes the Israeli actress Gal Gadot, who is of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage, as arguably the most high-profile lead, playing American heiress Linnet Ridgeway-Doyle.

016. What is the author’s general opinion about Agatha Christie films?
A) They are hard to reproduce nowadays.
B) The books perfectly reflect modern society.
C) It’s hard to find an outstanding cast.
D) Actors should refuse to take part in these films.

017. In the author’s opinion, what is the appeal of Agatha Christie films?
A) The chance to see a cast of great celebrities in a film with great settings and stories.
B) The possibility to see a great movie finally on the screen.
C) The public appreciation of classic films.
D) The chance to see an international cast.

018. What is the complexity of adapting Agatha Christie films to 21st-Century cinema?
A) The different approach to issues such as homophobia and racism.
B) Tastes in films have changed.
C) The lack of importance given to classic films.
D) The use of slang.

019. What is the author’s doubt regarding the adaptations of films to the modern age?
A) Whether and how it is possible to update certain films.
B) Whether there is a group of experts able to adapt movies.
C) Whether the public is ready to watch old films.
D) Whether it would still be possible to understand old films.

020. What did Branagh try to do in the film “Murder on the Orient Express”?
A) He tried to update the original source of the film.
B) He tried to completely change the plot.
C) He tried to select actors and actresses with upper-class British accents.
D) He tried not to change anything.
### 021. In the film “Death on the Nile”, the presence of black soldiers honours:

A) Thousands of Congolese that fought for Belgium.
B) Thousands of Congolese that fought to be free from Belgium.
C) Thousands of fights and wars of European Countries in Africa.
D) Thousands of Congolese grateful to Belgium.

### 022. Is the character of Dr Arbuthnot the same as that of the book?

A) In the film he is the result of the merging of two characters.
B) In the film this character does not appear.
C) This character is the same both in the film and in the book.
D) In the film he is the narrator and appears only at the end.

### 023. What is peculiar about the cast chosen by Branagh?

A) It’s more inclusive than in other adaptations.
B) It’s composed only of British actors.
C) Actors could come up with their own ideas while acting.
D) Actors have been selected by the director himself.

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**Leggere il brano e rispondere alle seguenti 7 domande. (024 - 030)**

*If you have the time this winter, an afternoon spent watching the York Players amateur theatre performance of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ is time not wasted.*

The lead actors, two local secondary school students, play their parts thoughtfully, and by the end of the performance there’s not usually a dry eye in the house.

*Quite an achievement when you think that everyone knows what happens at the end of the play even before they arrive at the theatre! There’s not much to say about most of the supporting actors, many of whom haven’t yet managed to learn their lines and need constant prompting from the side of the stage, but I would like to mention a wonderful performance by the actor who plays Friar Lawrence. Every time he appeared I was immediately taken far away from York to 15th century Verona. I recommend the play on the strength of this performance alone.*

*To be honest, if I was the director of this play I’d urgently recast most of the roles and give the shining stars the support they deserve. I’d also repaint the scenery and get a new costume designer! However, having said all that there’s still enough that’s good in this interpretation of Shakespeare’s star-crossed lovers to put it on your local ‘must see’ list this year.*

(Nadja Jackson for the York Gazette)

### 024. How does the person who reviews this play feel about it?

A) She thinks it’s got some good points.
B) She thinks it’s absolutely awful.
C) She thoroughly recommends it.
D) She suggests cancelling it from the programme.

### 025. What kind of help did many of the actors need during the performance?

A) They needed someone to tell them what to say.
B) They needed help because they were very nervous.
C) They needed help with their costumes.
D) They needed help to move on the stage.

### 026. What did the person who reviewed the play like most about the actor who played Friar Lawrence?

A) She found his performance very realistic.
B) She was pleased he knew all his lines.
C) He’s a famous actor.
D) He didn’t need any help.

### 027. What does the reviewer like best about the play?

A) Some of the actors.
B) The scenery.
C) The costumes.
D) The plot.

### 028. How old are the actors who play Romeo and Juliet?

A) They’re probably teenagers.
B) They’re very young children
C) They’re adults.
D) They are retired.

### 029. What often happens at the end of the play?

A) The audience cry.
B) The audience leave early.
C) The audience are asleep.
D) The audience clap.
030. What would the author do if she were the director?
A) Find new actors.
B) Shorten the play.
C) Change the plot.
D) Change the scenery.

031. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "What would you do if you _____________ decide?".
A) Could.
B) Had.
C) Would.
D) Can.

032. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "It __________ very kind of you if you corrected my mistakes".
A) Would be.
B) Has Been.
C) Is.
D) Will be.

033. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "If the phone __________ she wouldn't have got up from the sofa".
A) Hadn't rung.
B) Did ring.
C) Hadn’t rang.
D) Rings.

034. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "This garden means the world________ me".
A) To.
B) At.
C) By.
D) For.

035. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “It is a very remote location, completely cut _______ from the outside world ".
A) Off.
B) Down.
C) Out.
D) In.

036. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “Was it always an ____________ of yours to play for France?".
A) Aspiration.
B) Adoration.
C) Appetite.
D) Assumption.

037. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “John asked Todd if ______________ arrested!".
A) He had ever been.
B) He was ever.
C) Had he ever been.
D) He has ever been.

038. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “The play wasn’t very good but it wasn’t very bad either. __________ I’d say”.
A) Middling.
B) Mellow.
C) Metric.
D) Middle.

039. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “Going down white water rapids in a canoe must be extremely _________! Does your heart start beating really fast?".
A) Exhilarating.
B) Fearless.
C) Sedentary.
D) Exhilarated.

040. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “The house they live in must be worth a ____________ ".
A) Fortune.
B) Treasure.
C) Wealth.
D) Resource.
041. Which of the options is NOT an antonym of the verb “to fix”?
A) To stabilize.
B) To detach.
C) To disconnect.
D) To disjoin.

042. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “I get so stressed at work it’s hard sometimes to ___________ in the evening”.
A) Unwind.
B) Untie.
C) Undergo.
D) Unbear.

043. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “How dare you accuse me ___________!”.
A) Of cheating.
B) Having cheated.
C) That I cheat.
D) To cheat.

044. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “You know what they ___________: variety is the spice of life!”.
A) Say.
B) Speak.
C) Talk.
D) Affirm.

045. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “The interviewer asked ___________ the question”.
A) Him 12 times to answer.
B) That he answer 12 times.
C) For him to answer 12 times.
D) Him answering 12 times.

046. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. ’’You can’t ignore this problem any longer. You have to ___________ with it so we can go on with the plan’’.
A) Deal.
B) Solve.
C) Beat.
D) Do.

047. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “Reports are coming in that a flood has hit a heavily ___________ area in the south of India”.
A) Populated.
B) Packed.
C) Peopled.
D) Crowd.

048. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “It was getting ___________ dark so we decided to head for home”.
A) Fairly.
B) Utterly.
C) Absolutely.
D) Extreme.

049. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. “I don’t like people who are ___________. They are only interested in themselves”.
A) Self-centred.
B) Self-confident.
C) Self-aware.
D) Selfless.

050. Complete with the most suitable option. ”We’re trying ___________ right even though it’s not easy”.
A) To eat.
B) Eating.
C) Eat.
D) Eaten.

051. Complete with the most suitable option. ”They stopped ___________ meat when it got too expensive for them”.
A) Buying.
B) Buy.
C) Buys.
D) For buy.
052. Complete with the most suitable option. "We were talking about __________ Chinese food for dinner".
A) Getting.
B) Gets.
C) Get.
D) Got.

053. Complete with the most suitable option. "She's very slim __________ how much she eats".
A) Despite.
B) Even though.
C) Although.
D) Whereas.

054. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "What did you talk to Chloe __________?".
A) About.
B) On.
C) In.
D) Up.

055. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "Who __________ this cake? It's delicious".
A) Made.
B) Did make.
C) Maked.
D) Do.
056. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "She had to turn ___________ the invitation to lunch. She was working until late".
A) Down.
B) Up.
C) Over.
D) Off.

057. Fill in the gap with the most appropriate option. "The bar is so popular that customers are often turned ___________ at the door".
A) Away.
B) On.
C) Up.
D) Over.

058. Individuare la corretta divisione in sillabe.
A) Par-cel-liz-za-re.
B) Par-celliz-za-re.
C) Par-cel-liz-zare.
D) Pa-rcel-liz-za-re.