

Children's Education and Health in the Constitution of the Italian Republic

Art. 30

It is the duty and right of parents to support, instruct and **educate their children**, even those born outside of matrimony. [...]

Art. 32

The Republic safeguards **health as a fundamental right** of the individual and as a collective interest, and guarantees free medical care to the indigent.[...]

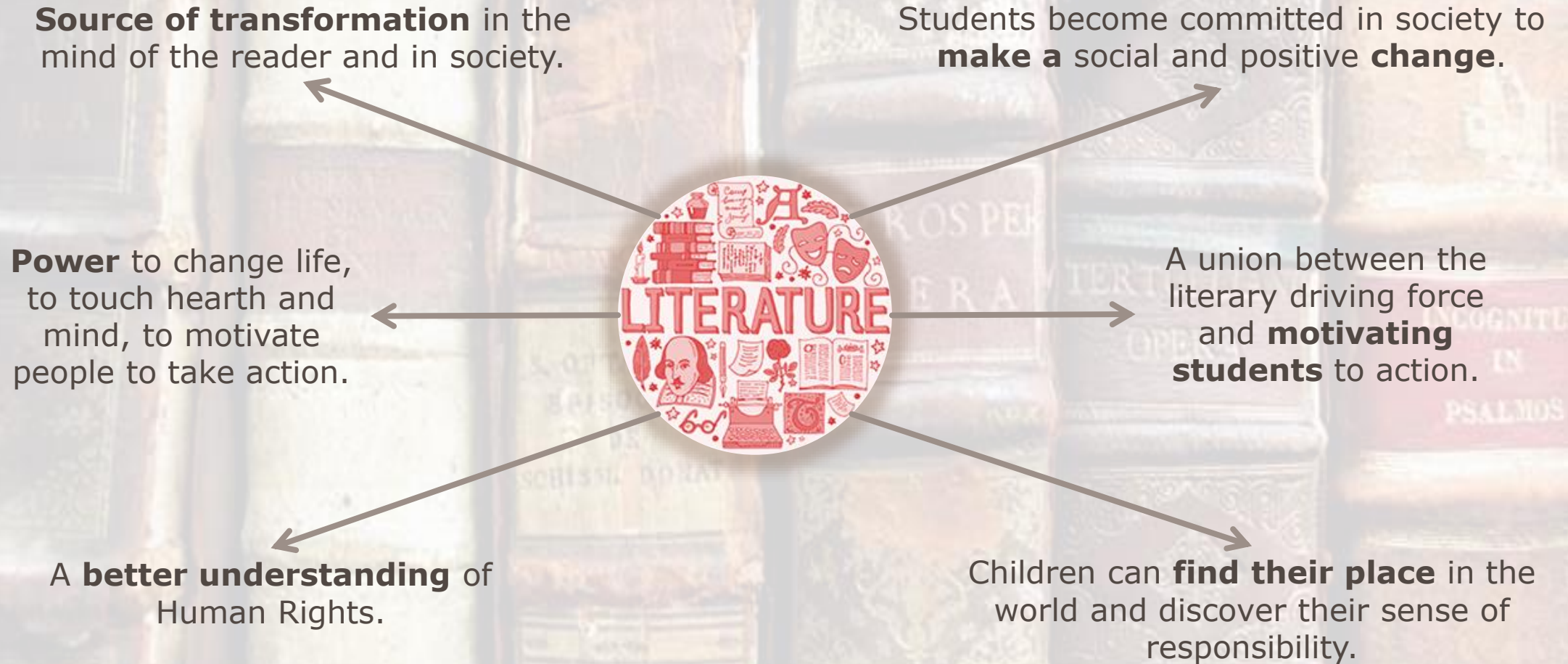
Art. 33

The arts and sciences are free, as is their teaching. The Republic lays down general rules for **education** and establishes all the kinds and levels of State schools. [...]

Art. 34

Schools are open to everyone. Primary **education**, which is imparted for at least eight years, is compulsory and free. [...]

The Power of Literature



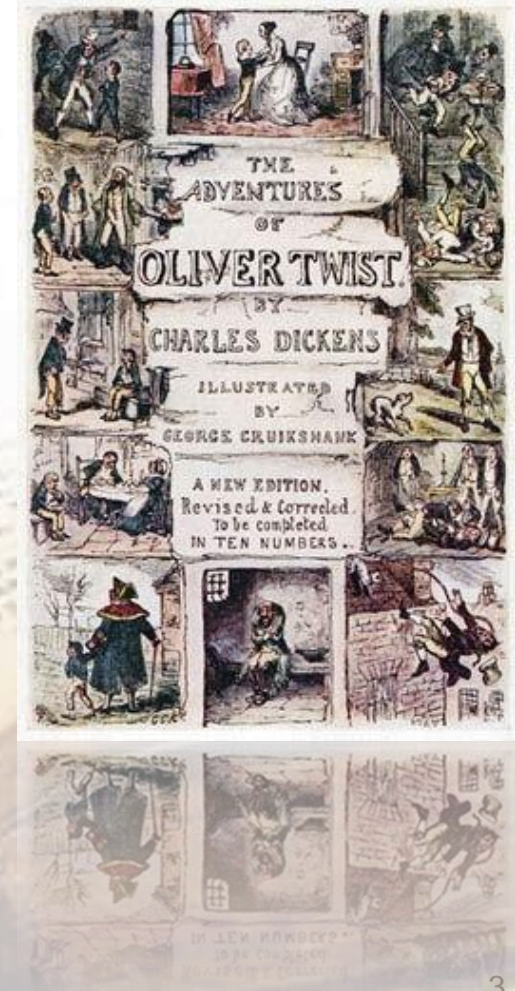
Reference to Literary Texts

C. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, 1837

A Victorian Novel

Quotation: "Please, sir, I want some more"

- Oliver Twist is a poor boy who lives in a workhouse
 - inhuman way
 - extreme health conditions
 - no education
- He represents a symbol of change and progress
- Poor children ⇒ lower class
- Society does not recognize children's rights



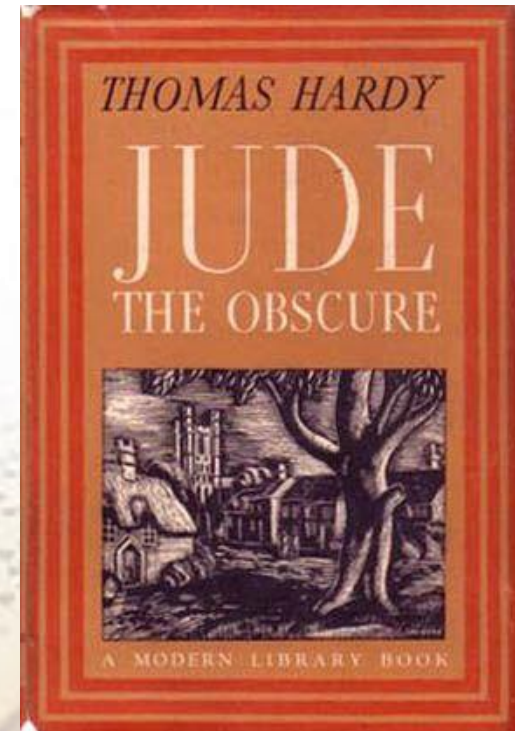
Reference to Literary Texts

T. HARDY, Jude the Obscure, 1895

***A novel of
the Anti-Victorian reaction***

*Quotation: "It was better to be out of life than in it
at this price"*

- Jude is a working-class young man, a stonemason
- Children are victims, without expectation for the future
- T. Hardy uses cinematic technique in view of a dramatic and ghastly effect
- Health is uncertain and so is the whole existence
- Children express their uneasiness about life



A Turning Point in the History of Childhood Legislation

Prevention of Cruelty to, and Protection of, Children Act (1889)

- ✓ Commonly known as the Children's Charter
- ✓ Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

From Legislation to Literature → Ian McEwan's *The Children Act* (2014)

Quotation: "Adam came looking for her and she offered nothing in religion's place, no protection, even though the Act was clear, her paramount consideration was his welfare. How many pages in how many judgments had she devoted to that term? Welfare, well-being, was social. No child is an island. She thought her responsibilities ended at the courtroom walls. But how could they? He came to find her, wanting what everyone wanted, and what only free-thinking people, not the supernatural, could give. Meaning"

