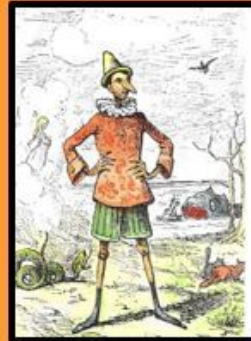


What image does the name Pinocchio conjure up?

This?



Or this?



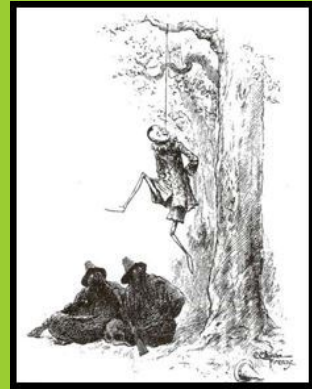
We can't help but think of the little boy-puppet drawn by Disney. He looks a lot like a cute child, and only a little like a wooden puppet. He has a friend, Jiminy Cricket, who plays the part of his conscience, and who sings a schmaltzy song about wishing upon a star. Like all kids, he is charmingly naughty, but unlike real children, his nose has a tendency to grow whenever he tells a childish fib. In short, Pinocchio has become synonymous with Disney's creation released in 1940. But how does this image compare to the original Pinocchio, the character in Tuscan author, Carlo Collodi's book?

In fact, if you examine the original text by Carlo Collodi (published between 1881 and 1883), you are in for some surprises – shocks even.

Near the beginning two old men almost come to blows. After a handful of chapters, Pinocchio's father, Geppetto, has been arrested and carted off to jail, and Pinocchio himself has killed the Talking Cricket by throwing a hammer at him. Pinocchio is very nearly burned on the fire by a cruel puppet master.



He falls in with some ruthless bandits—the Fox and the Cat—who hang him from a tree. Only half way through the book, it seems that our puppet has been left dangling, and is dead—not entirely unjust punishment for disobeying his loving and generous father at every possible turn.



Carlo Collodi, the pen name of Carlo Lorenzini of Florence, did not intend for Pinocchio's bad behavior to be charming or enduring. He meant for it to serve as a warning to disobedient children. And, he intended to end his story after 15 episodes with Pinocchio dead on the tree. But the editor of the journal that was serializing the story begged for more. So, Pinocchio is rescued from the tree by the "Fata," the Good Fairy and the story goes on to a happy ending.

So, as you can see, here is far more to Pinocchio than met Disney's eye. It's a rich text with deep roots in tradition and Italian culture.

Did you know there's a Pinocchio Park? Opened in 1956 in the town of Collodi (near Florence), the park's route unfolds through gardens and traces the events narrated in the book through works of art, like the sculpture of Pinocchio and la Fata (the fairy), the Carabinieri (police), and il Gatto (the cat) and il Volpe (the fox).



Enjoy a short video about the birthplace of Pinocchio by clicking on the link below.

[Pinocchio](#)

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